

Spiral Into Horror

# UZUMAKI

by Junji Ito



3

P U L P   G R A P H I C   N O V E L



CHAPTER

13

THE

HOUSE





SEVERAL  
DAYS AGO,  
KURÔZU-CHO  
WAS  
DEVASTATED  
BY A  
HURRICANE.



THE  
CENTER  
OF TOWN  
SUFFERED  
THE WORST  
DAMAGE.



ALL THE HOUSES  
AROUND  
DRAGONFLY POND  
WERE REDUCED  
TO RUBBLE,  
INCLUDING OURS.

AS IF  
BY SOME  
MAGNETIC  
ATTRACTION,  
THE HURRICANE  
WAS SUCKED  
INTO THE  
POND.



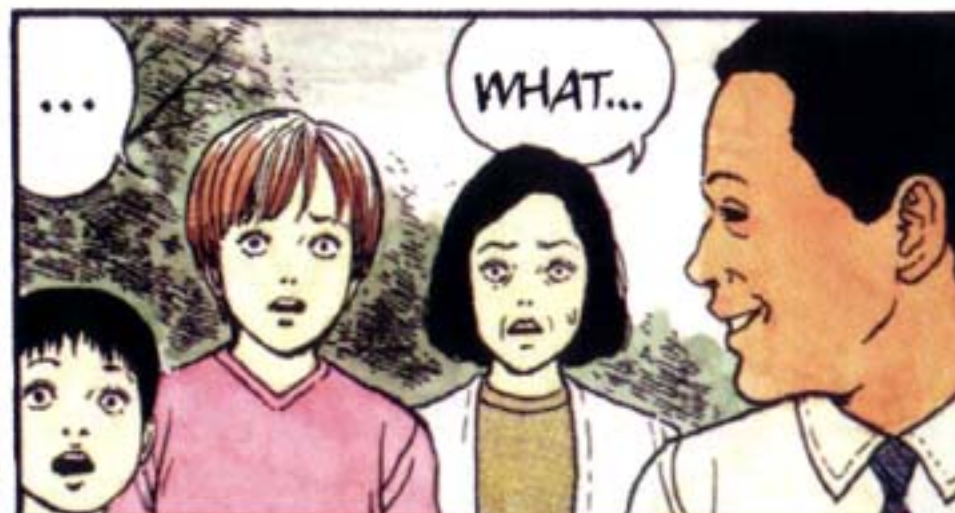
THE  
HOUSES  
NEARBY  
WERE  
DESTROYED.

MY  
FAMILY  
MIRACULOUSLY  
SURVIVED  
...

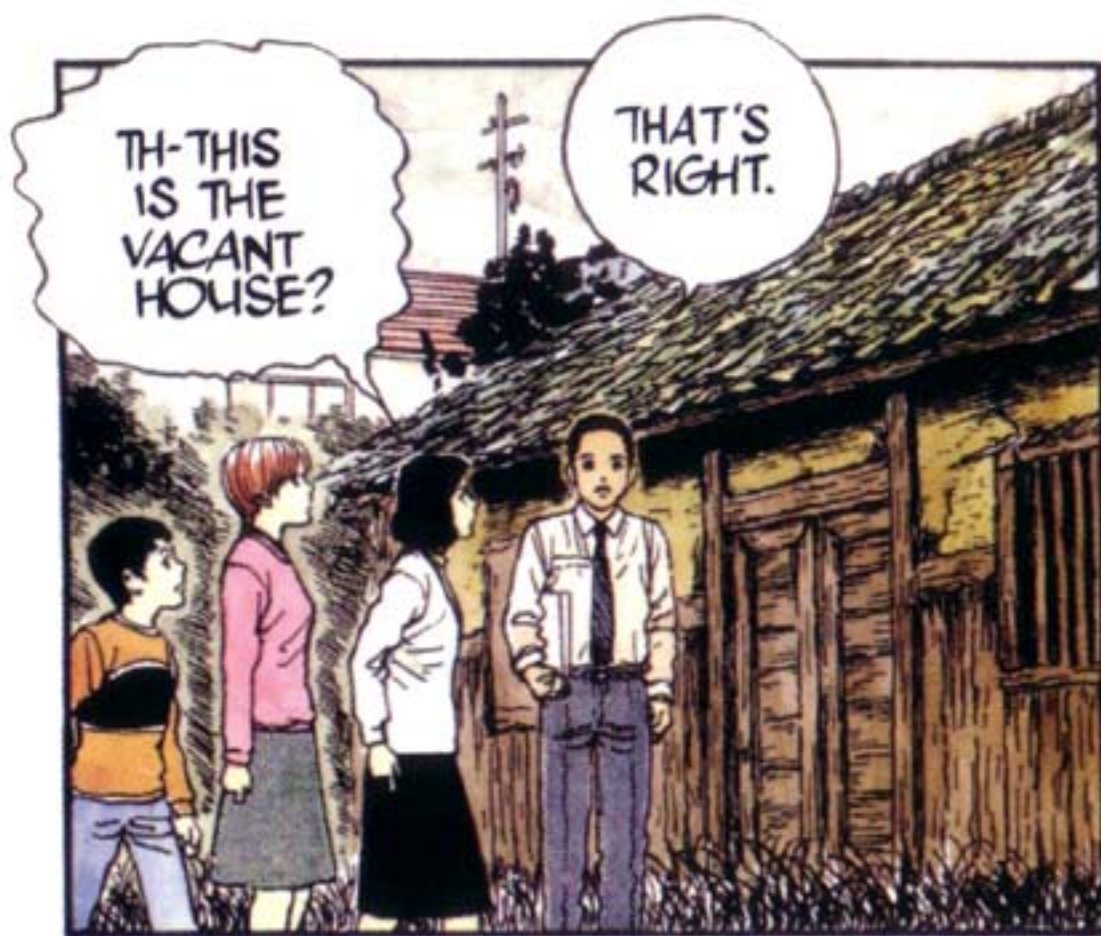


BUT WE  
HAD TO  
FIND  
ANOTHER  
PLACE  
TO  
LIVE.



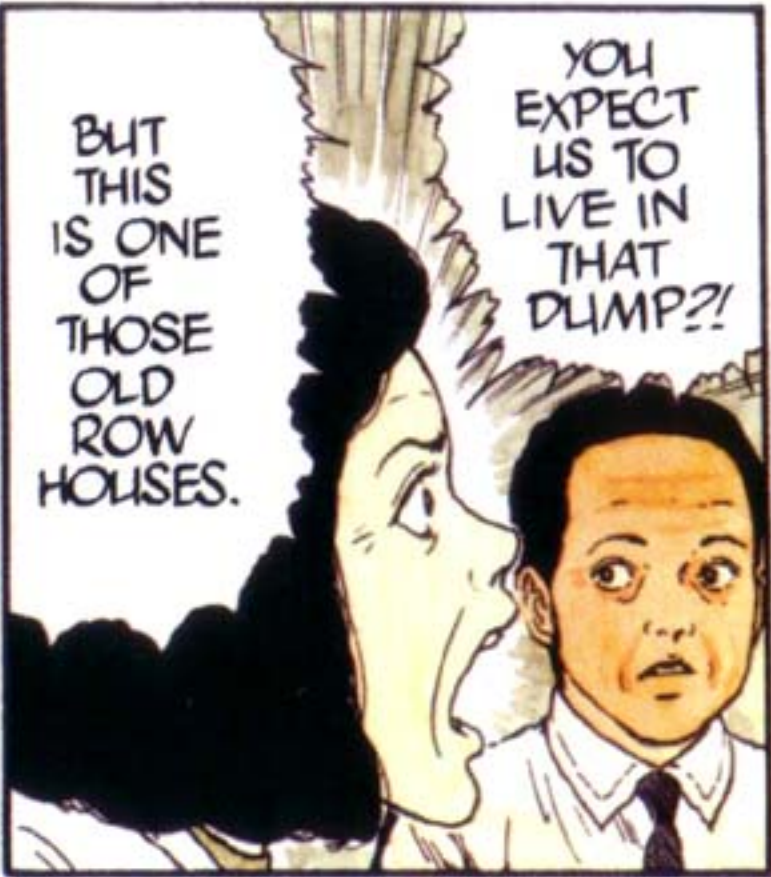






TH-THIS IS THE VACANT HOUSE?

THAT'S RIGHT.



BUT THIS IS ONE OF THOSE OLD ROW HOUSES.

YOU EXPECT US TO LIVE IN THAT DUMP?!

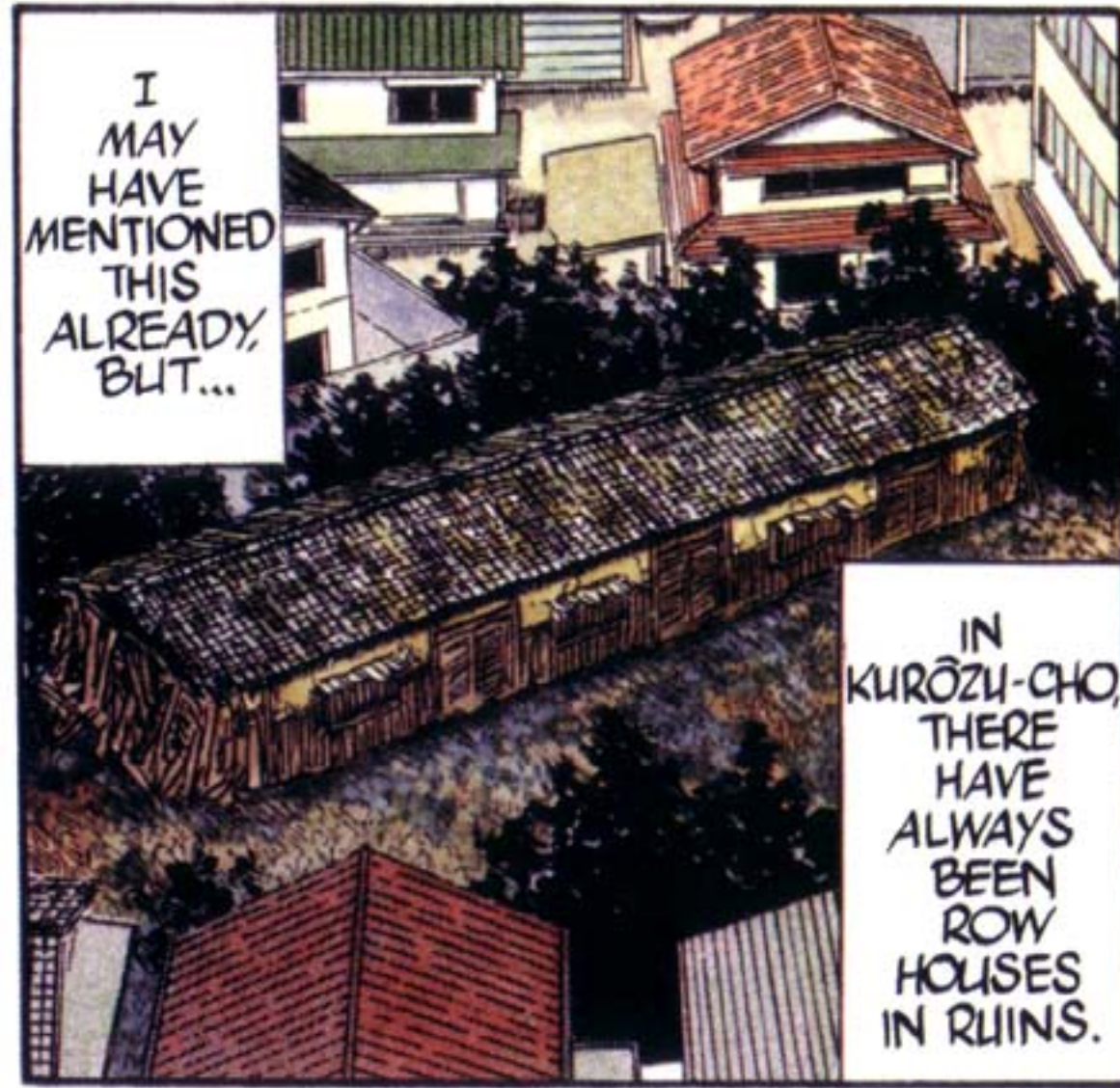


NOT THIS PLACE ...

MOM, WE CAN'T!

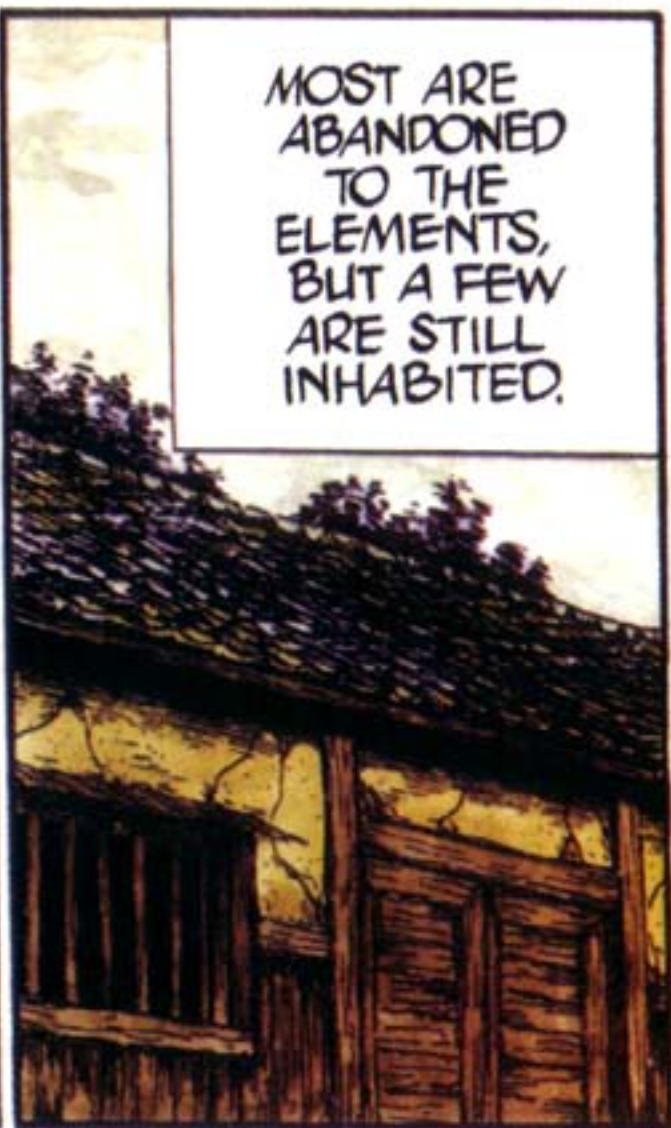


DON'T YOU KNOW THE STORY ABOUT THIS HOUSE?!



I MAY HAVE MENTIONED THIS ALREADY, BUT...

IN KURŌZU-CHO, THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ROW HOUSES IN RUINS.



MOST ARE ABANDONED TO THE ELEMENTS, BUT A FEW ARE STILL INHABITED.





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# UZUMAKI VOL. 3

This graphic novel contains the UZUMAKI installments originally published in PULP Vol. 6, No. 2 through Vol. 6, No. 8, as well as an additional chapter published here for the first time in English.

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BANANA FISH VOL. 1  
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BANANA FISH VOL. 4  
BANANA FISH VOL. 5  
BANANA FISH VOL. 6

BLACK & WHITE VOL. 1  
BLACK & WHITE VOL. 2  
BLACK & WHITE VOL. 3

DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 1  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 2  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 3  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 4  
DANCE TILL TOMORROW VOL. 5

JUNKO MIZUNO'S CINDERALLA

STRAIN VOL. 1  
STRAIN VOL. 2  
STRAIN VOL. 3  
STRAIN VOL. 4  
STRAIN VOL. 5

VOYEUR  
VOYEURS, INC. VOL. 1  
VOYEURS, INC. VOL. 2  
VOYEURS, INC. VOL. 3

# CONTENTS

<b>Chapter 13</b> <b>THE HOUSE</b> .....	1
<b>Chapter 14</b> <b>BUTTERFLIES</b> .....	35
<b>Chapter 15</b> <b>CHAOS</b> .....	67
<b>Chapter 16</b> <b>EROSION</b> .....	99
<b>Chapter 17</b> <b>ESCAPE</b> .....	131
<b>Chapter 18</b> <b>THE LABYRINTH</b> .....	164
<b>Chapter 19</b> <b>COMPLETION</b> .....	195
<b>Lost Chapter</b> <b>GALAXIES</b> .....	219



BUT  
THERE WAS  
MORE TO  
THIS  
PARTICULAR  
HOUSE.



THE HOUSE  
ON THIRD  
STREET WAS  
SAID TO  
BE HAUNTED  
BY A  
MONSTER WHO  
CAME OUT  
AT NIGHT.

SEVERAL PET  
DOGS IN THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
HAD BEEN  
FOUND SLAUGHTERED,  
EATEN ALIVE.



HA HA HA...  
THERE'S  
NO SUCH  
THING AS  
MONSTERS.

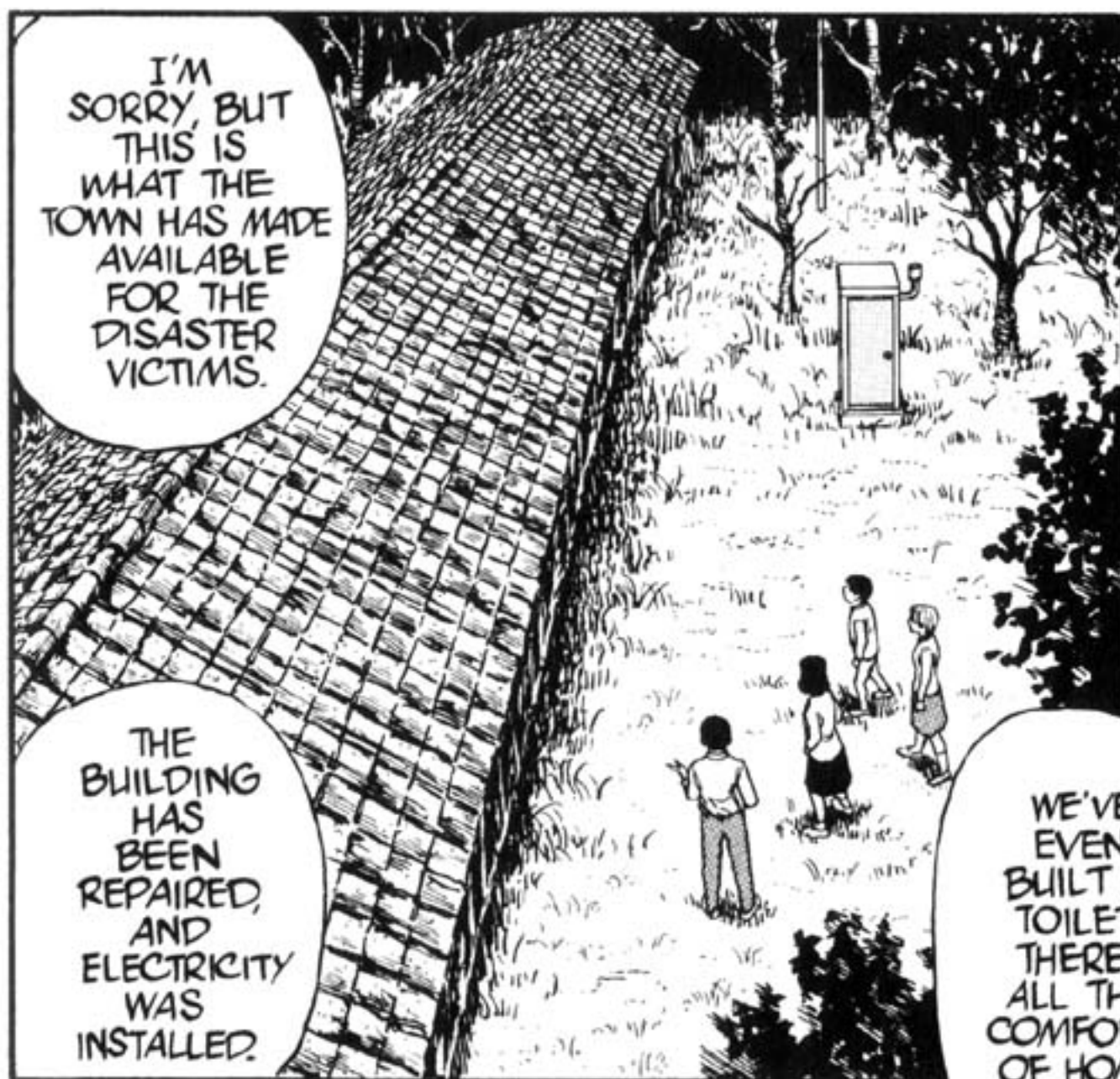


NEVER  
MIND  
THAT  
NONSENSE,  
BUT WE  
ARE **NOT**  
GOING TO  
LIVE IN  
THIS  
WRECK!



I'M  
SORRY, BUT  
THIS IS  
WHAT THE  
TOWN HAS MADE  
AVAILABLE  
FOR THE  
DISASTER  
VICTIMS.

THE  
BUILDING  
HAS  
BEEN  
REPAIRED,  
AND  
ELECTRICITY  
WAS  
INSTALLED.

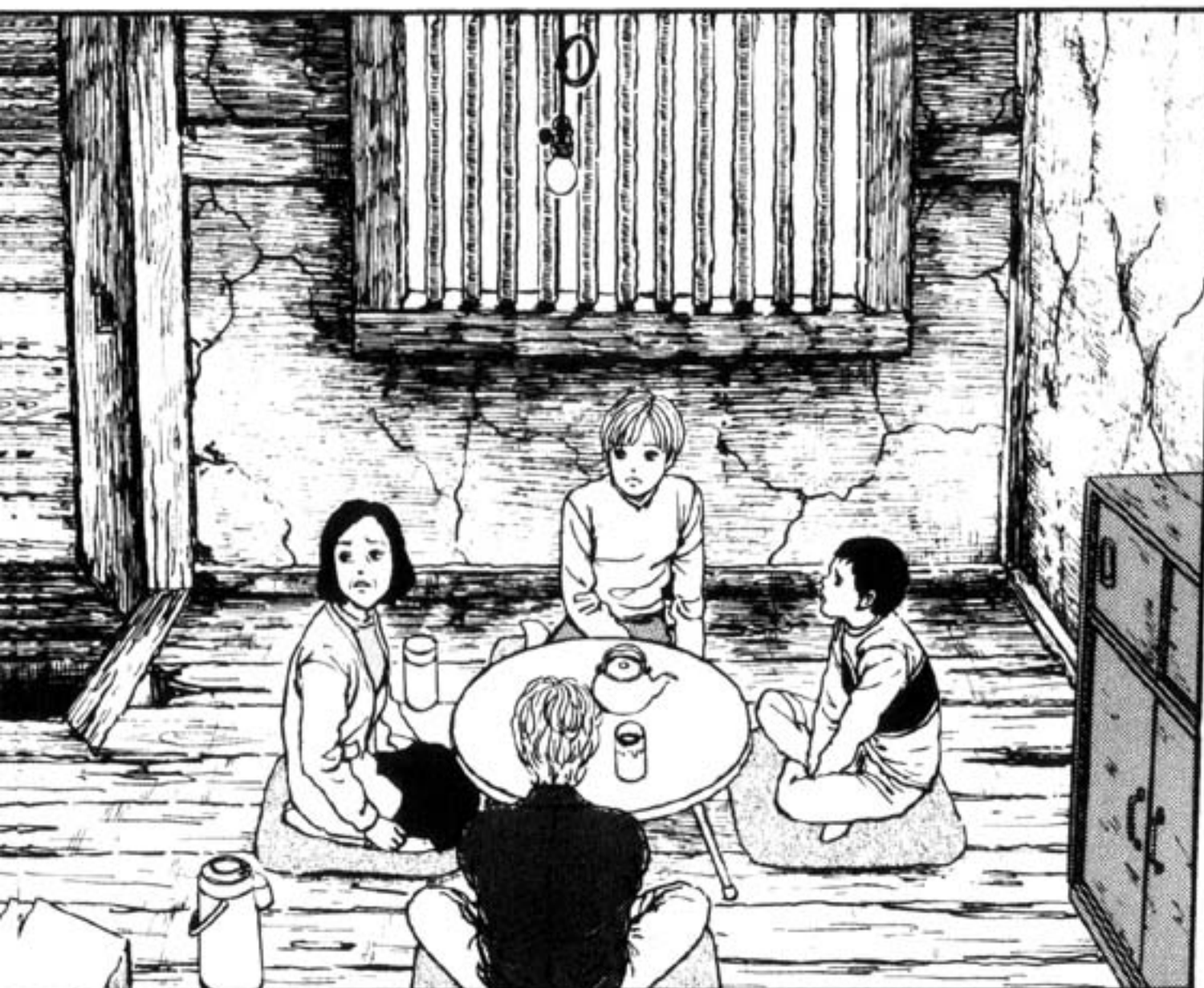
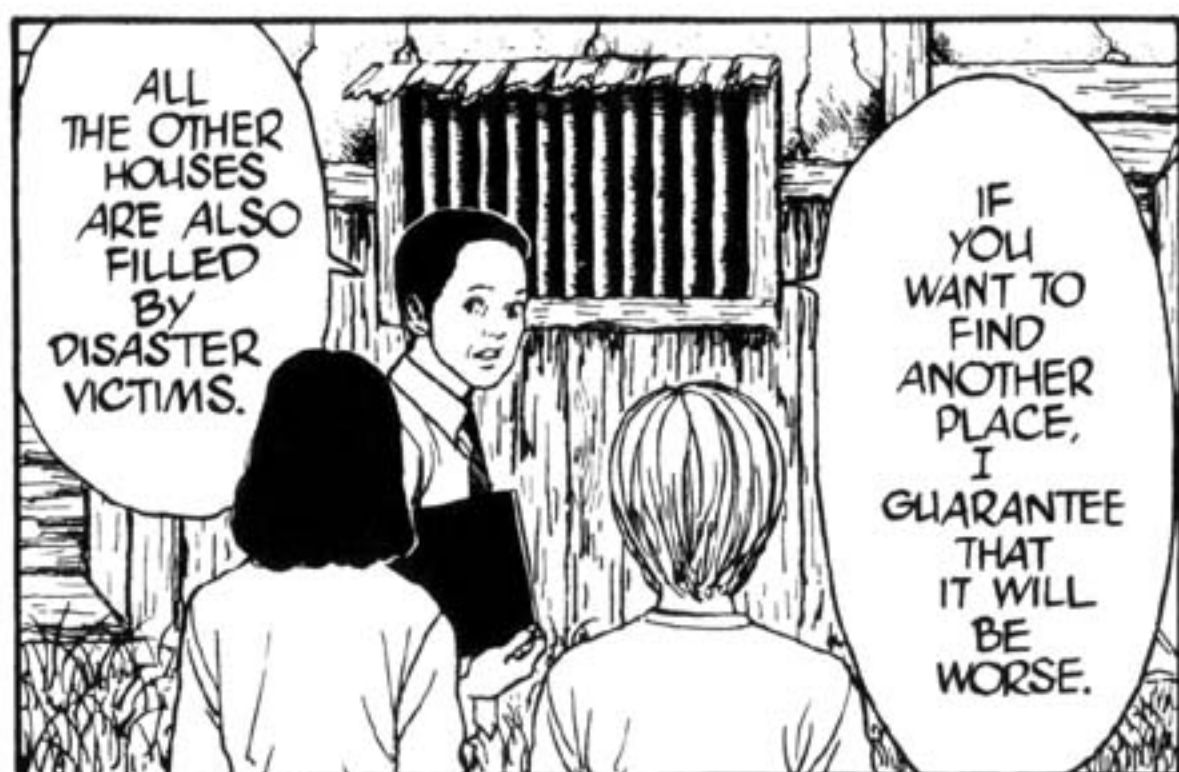


THERE'S  
THREE  
SEPARATE  
APARTMENTS...  
TWO  
ARE  
ALREADY  
OCCUPIED.

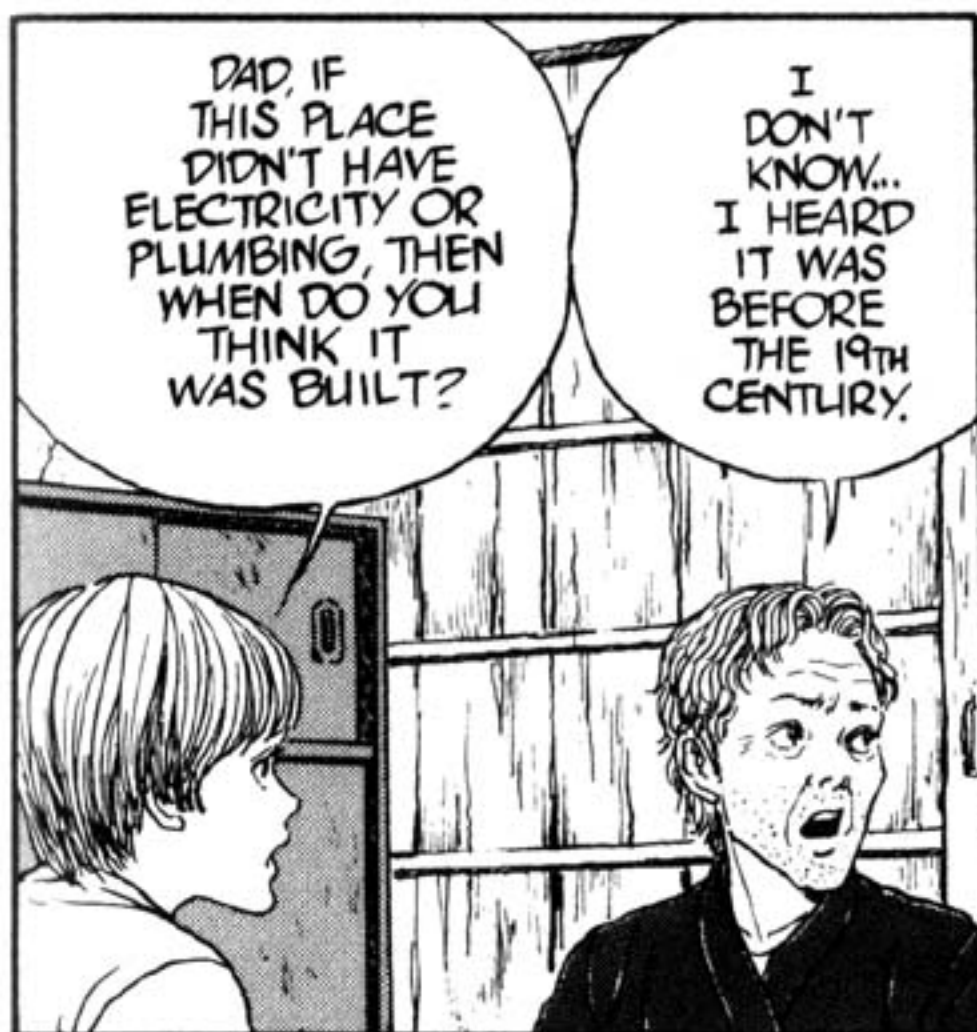
WE'VE  
EVEN  
BUILT A  
TOILET.  
THERE'S  
ALL THE  
COMFORTS  
OF HOME.











DAD, IF THIS PLACE DIDN'T HAVE ELECTRICITY OR PLUMBING, THEN WHEN DO YOU THINK IT WAS BUILT?

I DON'T KNOW... I HEARD IT WAS BEFORE THE 19TH CENTURY.



WHAT?! THAT LONG AGO?



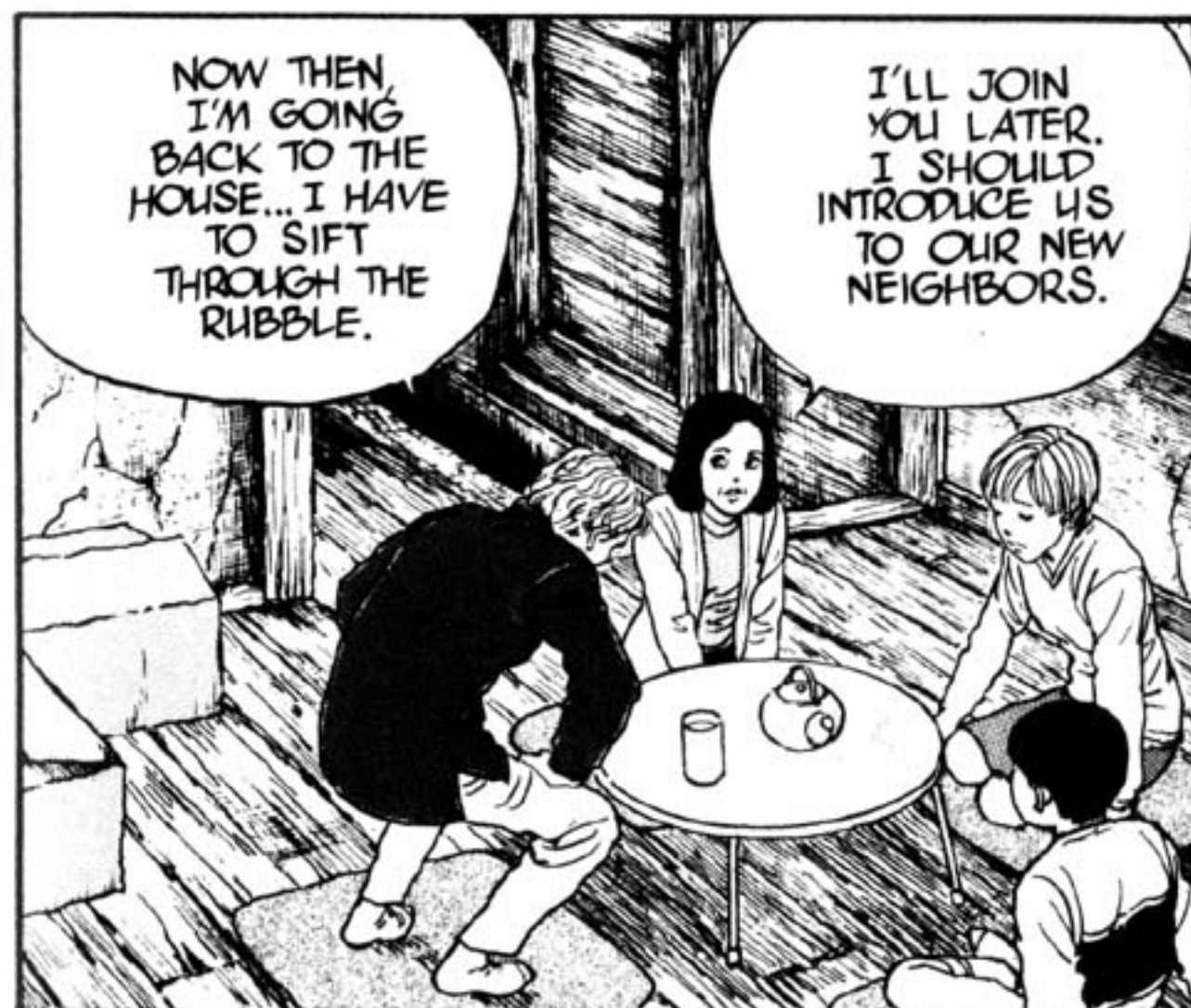
WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF IT WAS HAUNTED.



I DON'T WANT TO LIVE HERE. IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS.



STOP WHINING! BE THANKFUL WE HAVE A ROOF ABOVE OUR HEADS.



NOW THEN, I'M GOING BACK TO THE HOUSE... I HAVE TO SIFT THROUGH THE RUBBLE.

I'LL JOIN YOU LATER. I SHOULD INTRODUCE US TO OUR NEW NEIGHBORS.

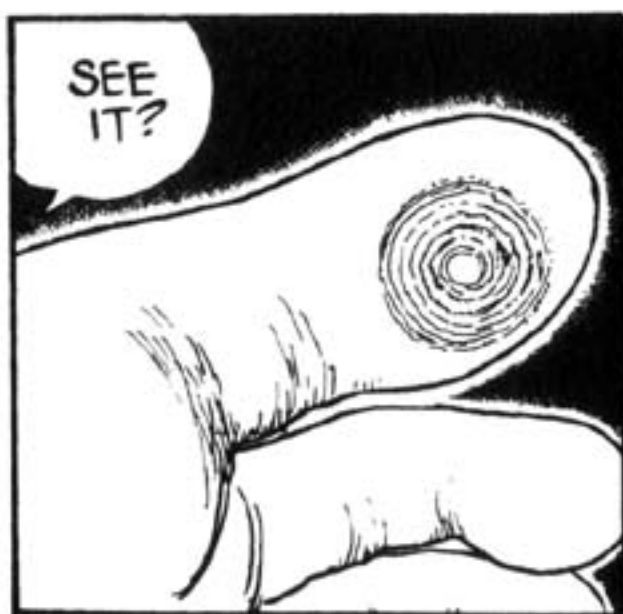
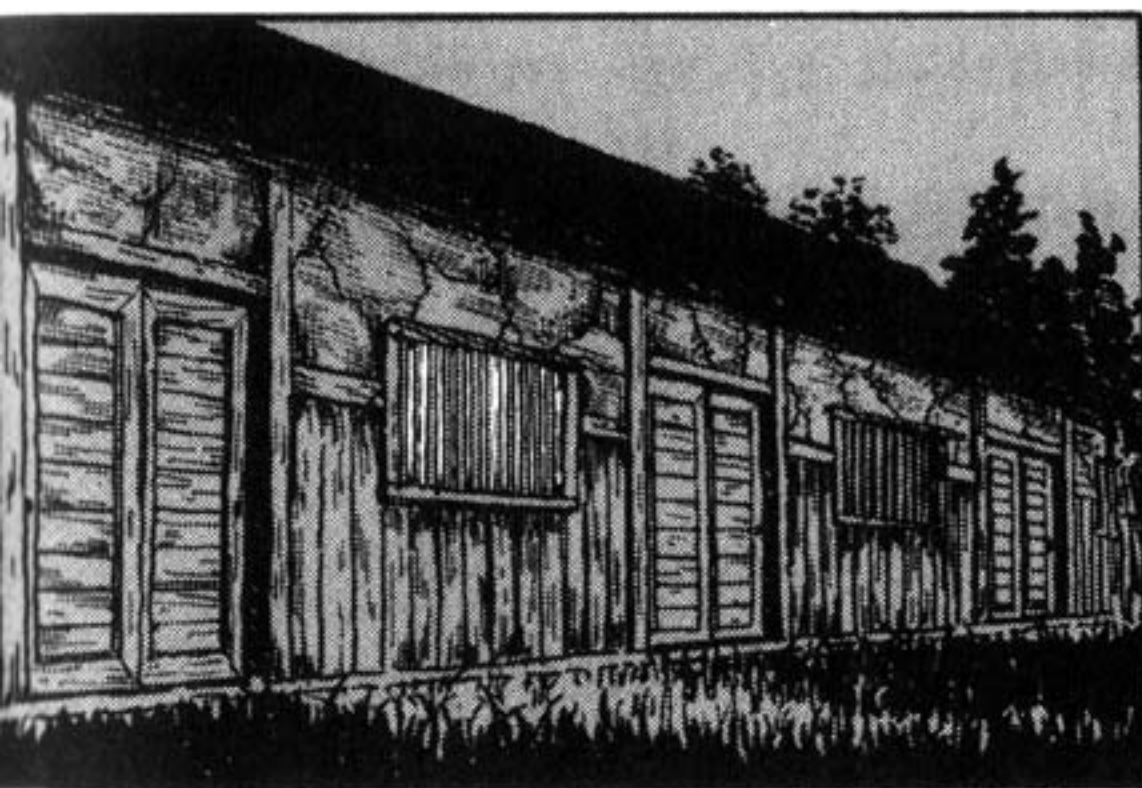


KIRIE AND MITSUO, YOU COME TOO.

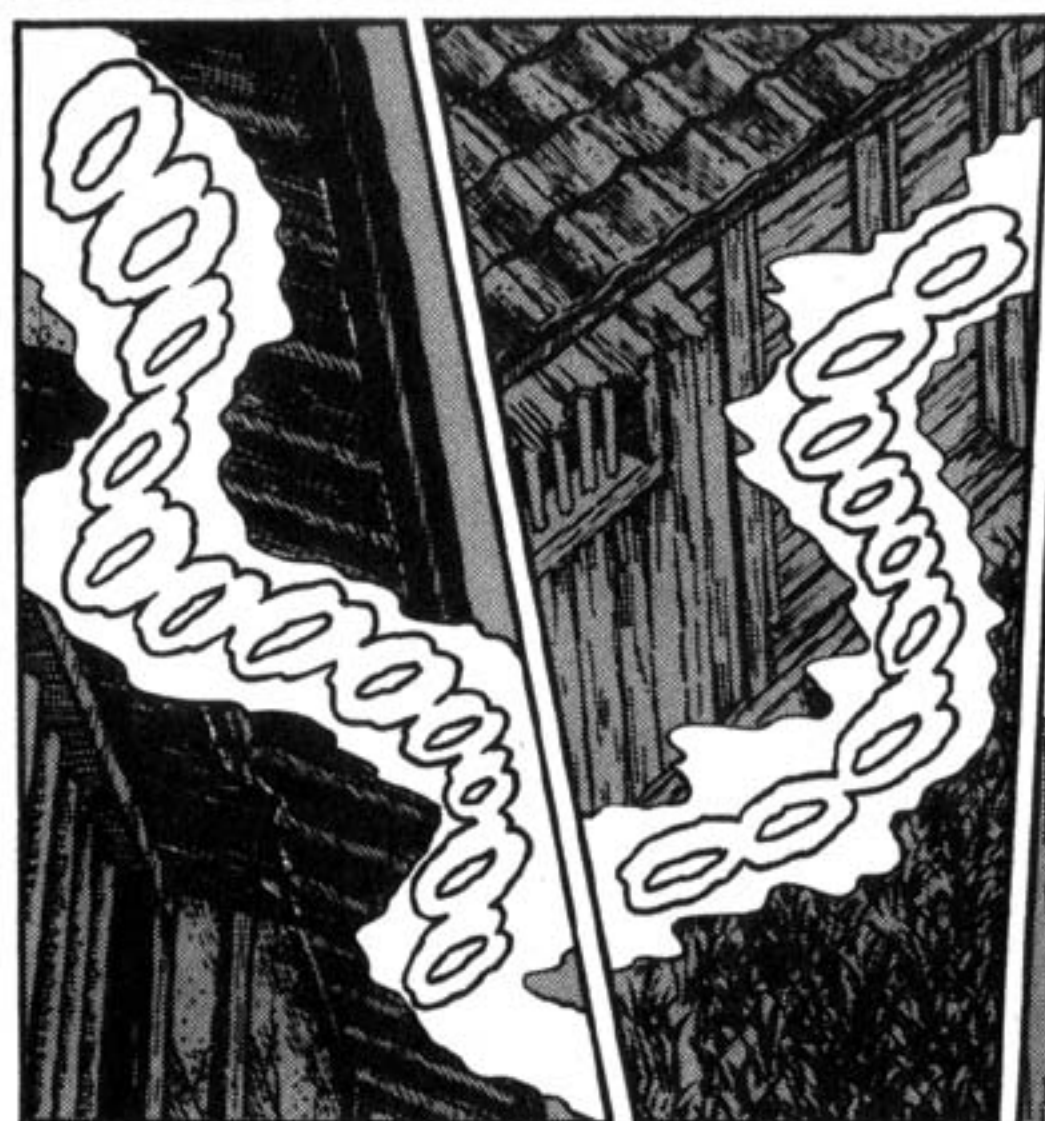
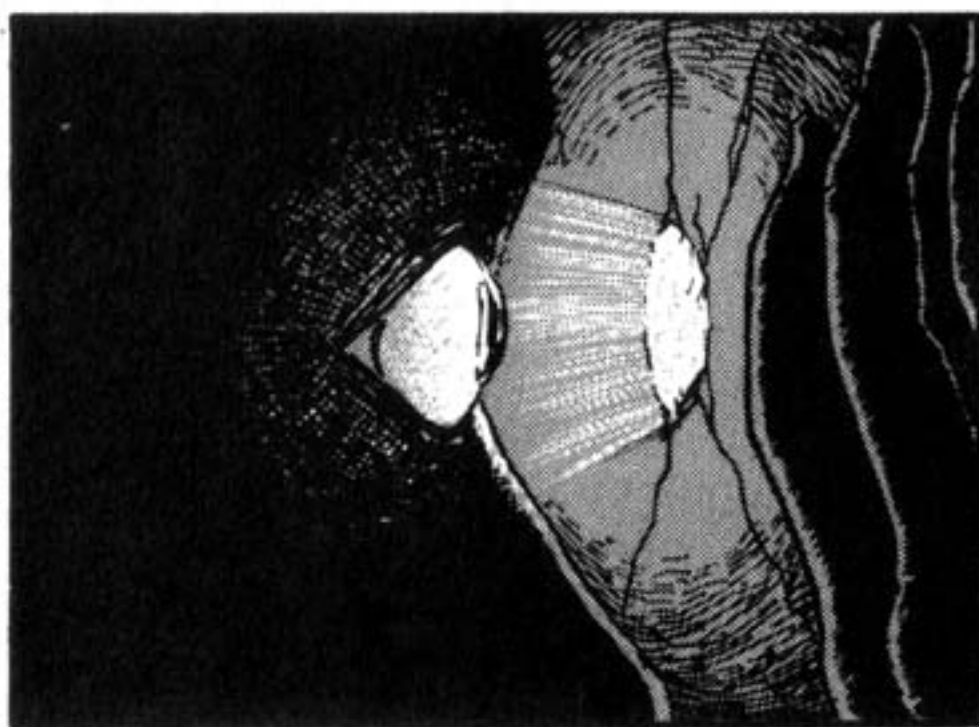
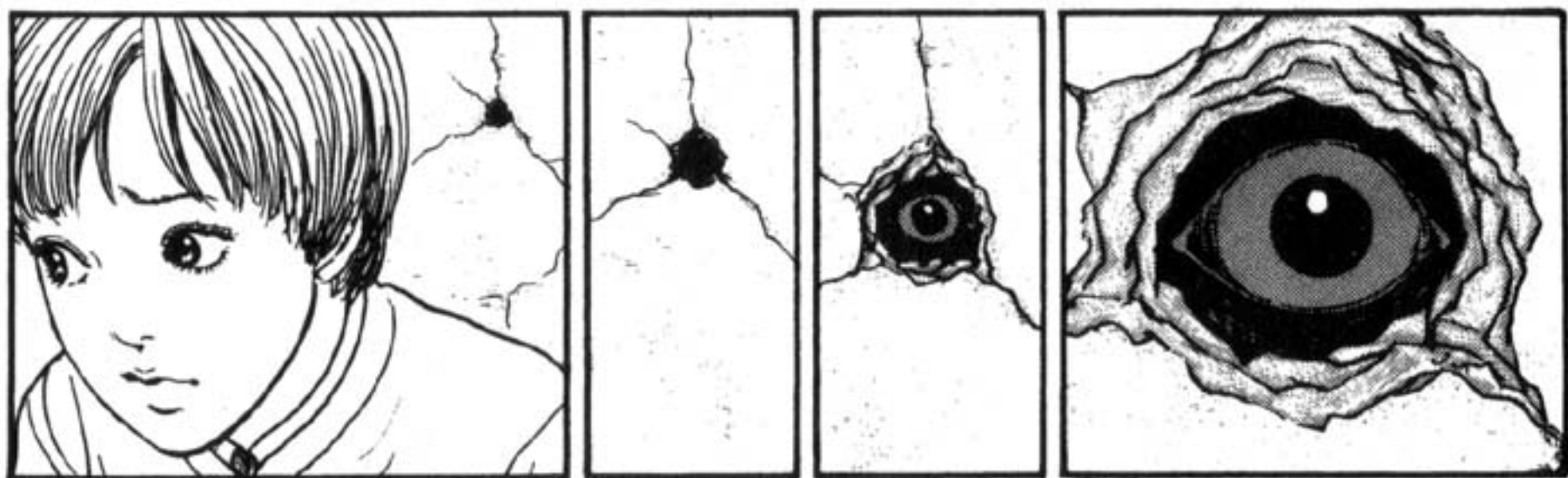






















APPARENTLY,  
THE SON  
HAS A  
SERIOUS  
MEDICAL  
CONDITION.  
THAT WAS  
HIM, CRYING  
FROM THE  
PAIN.

BUT  
NO ONE  
KNOWS  
WHAT'S WRONG  
WITH HIM.  
THE OLD WOMAN  
WON'T LET  
HIM BE  
SEEN.

THEY  
SAY  
HE'S  
DEFORMED  
DUE TO  
HIS  
ILLNESS.

CREAK

IF  
HE  
LOOKS  
BAD  
ENOUGH...

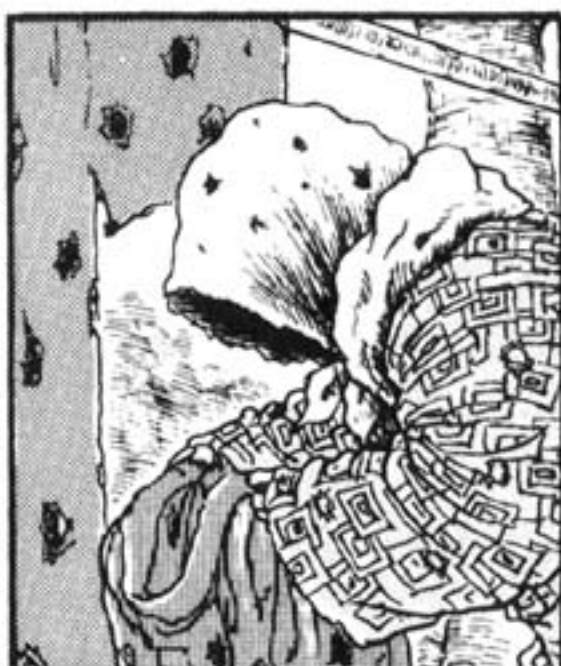
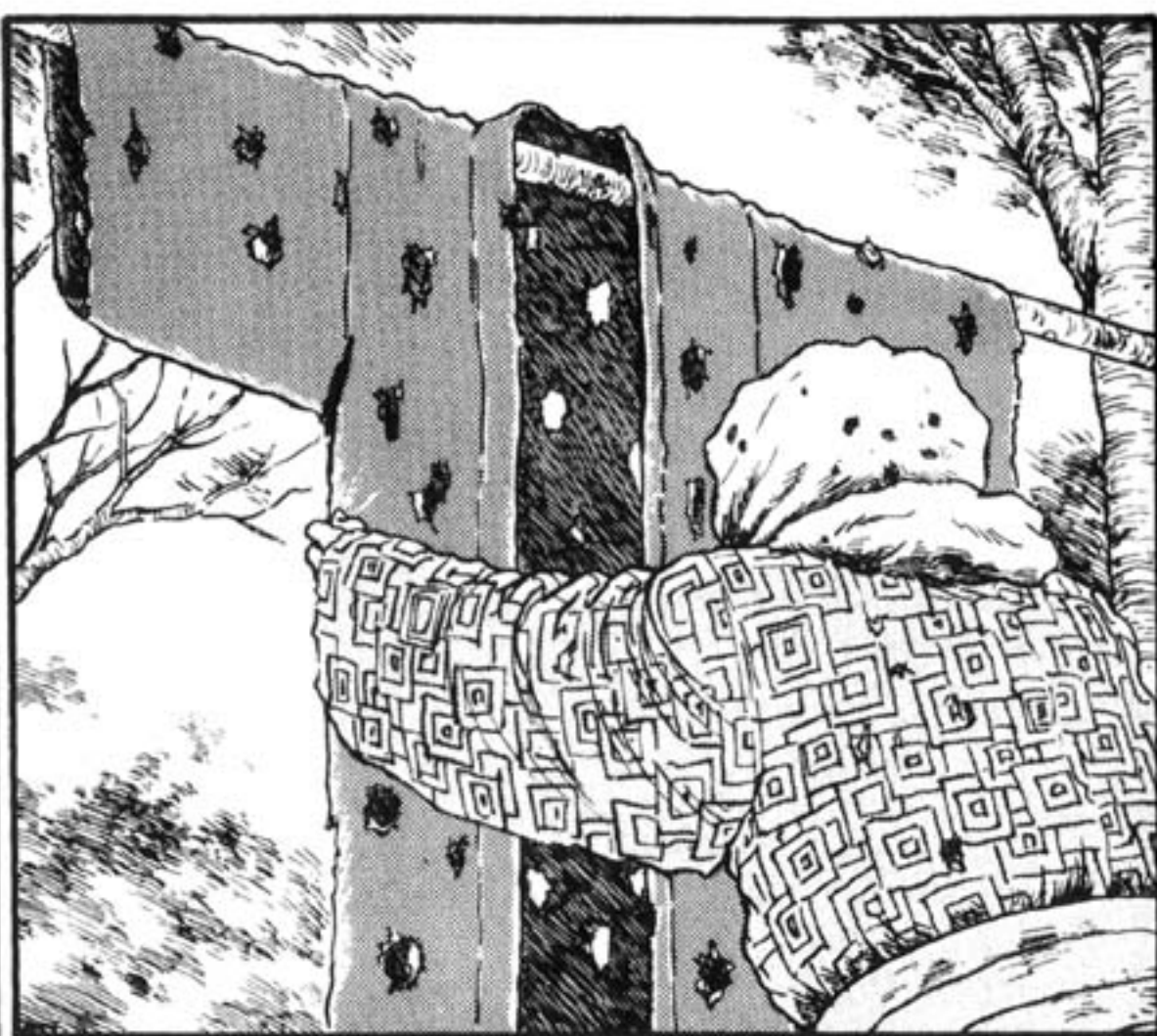
THAT  
WOULD  
EXPLAIN  
RUMORS  
ABOUT  
A  
MONSTER.



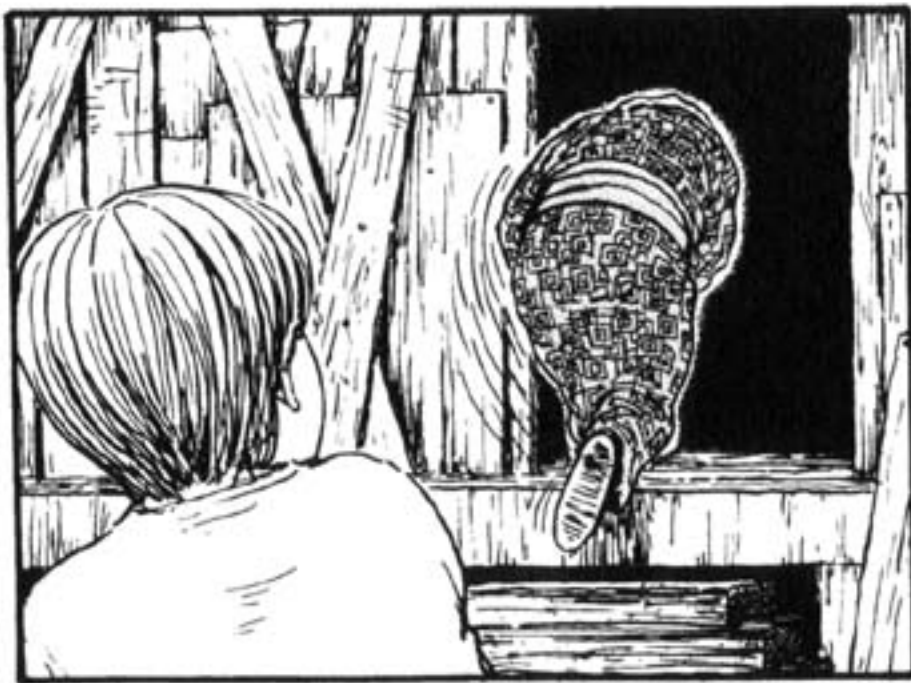
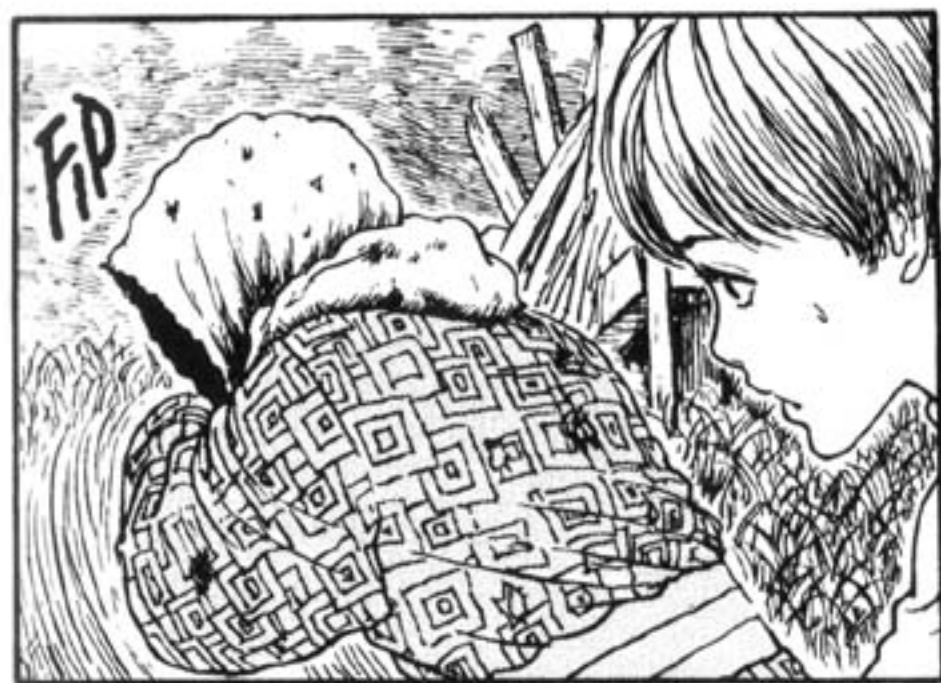
SPEAKING  
OF  
WHICH...

THERE  
SHE  
IS  
NOW.











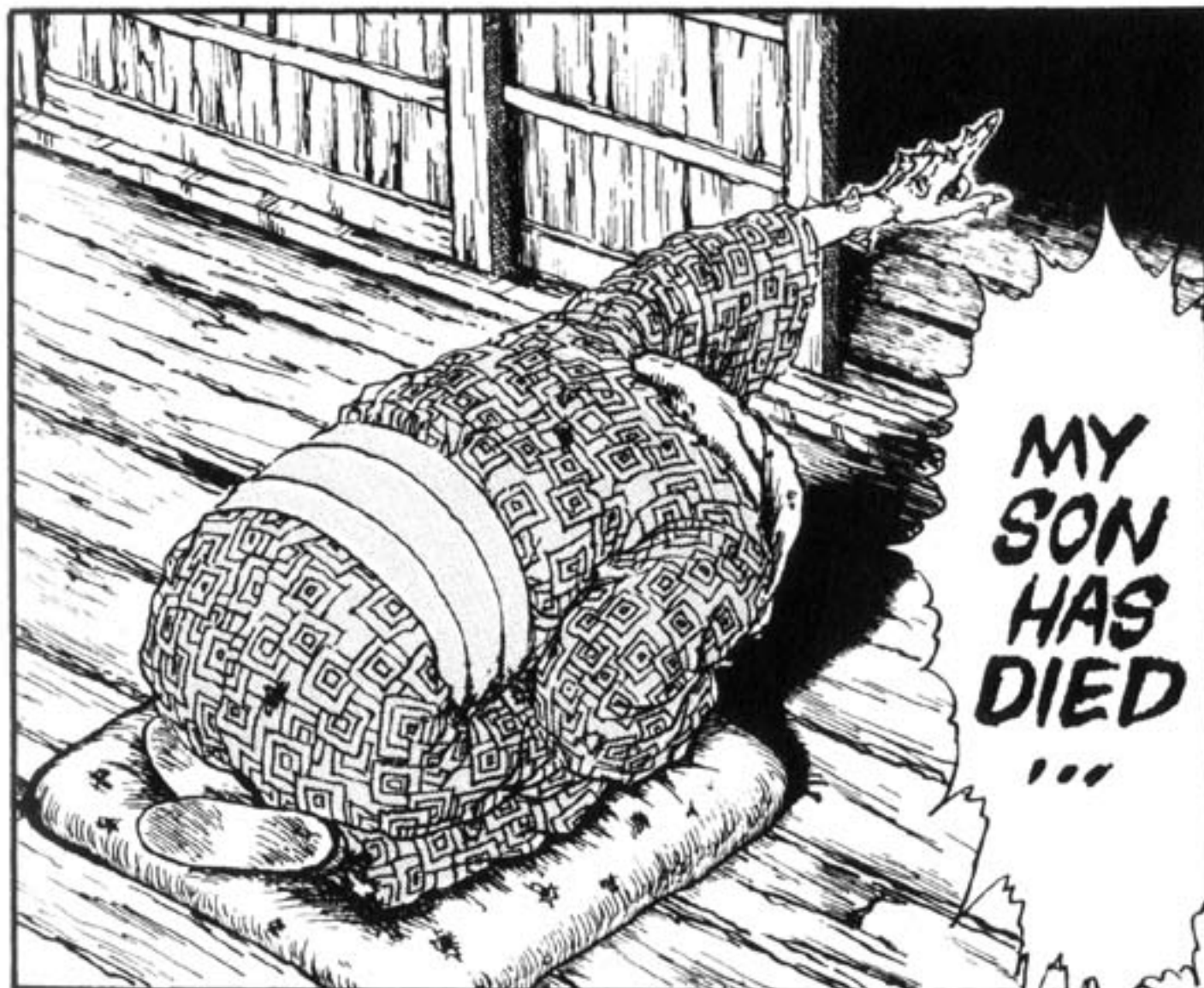
THAT  
AFTERNOON  
...



NO!  
THAT'S A  
DIFFERENT  
NOISE!  
THAT'S  
THE  
OLD  
WOMAN  
CRYING!











THE AMBULANCE  
CREW TOOK A  
LONG TIME  
REMOVING THE  
SON'S BODY  
FROM THE  
HOUSE.



AT THE  
HOSPITAL,  
DOCTORS  
DIAGNOSED  
THE OLD  
WOMAN WITH  
AN UNKNOWN  
SKIN  
DISEASE,  
AND KEPT  
HER FOR  
OBSERVATION.

THE  
SON  
HAD  
SUFFERED  
FROM  
THE  
SAME  
THING.





WOW,  
WHAT  
A  
SHAME!

I  
WISH  
I'D  
BEEN  
THERE.



SO  
HOW  
DID  
THE  
SON  
LOOK?

PLEASE  
TELL  
ME. I'M  
REALLY  
INTERESTED.



YOU  
SEE...

I  
WENT  
INTO  
THEIR  
ROOMS  
THE  
OTHER  
NIGHT.



THE  
FLOOR  
WHERE  
THE SON  
SLEPT WAS  
COVERED  
WITH SMALL  
HOLES.

SMALL  
HOLES...  
NOW  
WHAT  
**WERE**  
THEY?



I  
HAVE  
NOTHING  
TO  
TELL  
YOU.

BUT  
HE  
WASN'T  
NORMAL,  
WAS  
HE?



COME  
ON.  
I  
PROMISE  
NOT  
TO  
TELL  
ANYONE.



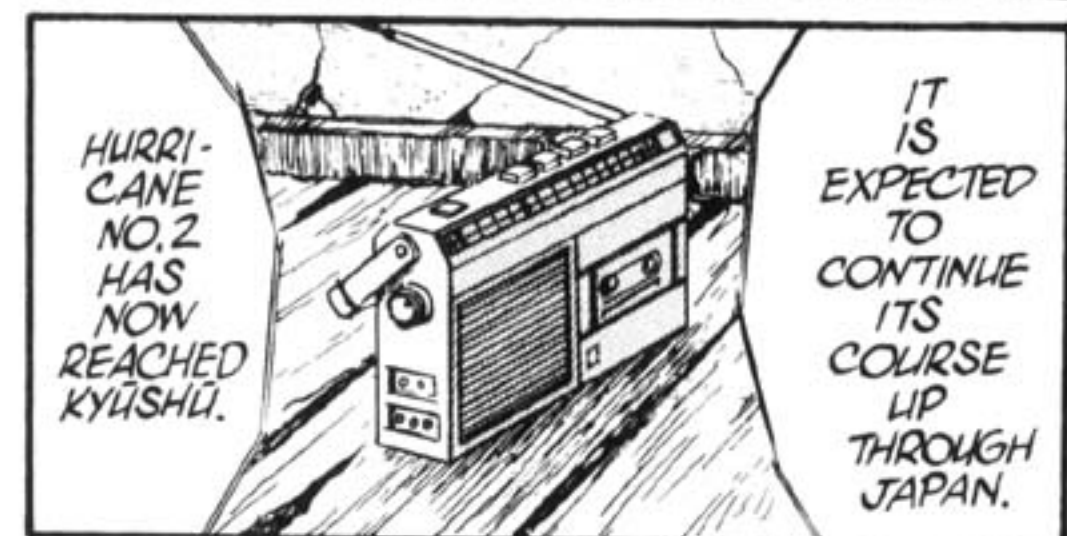


I'M  
SORRY,  
I'D  
RATHER  
NOT.



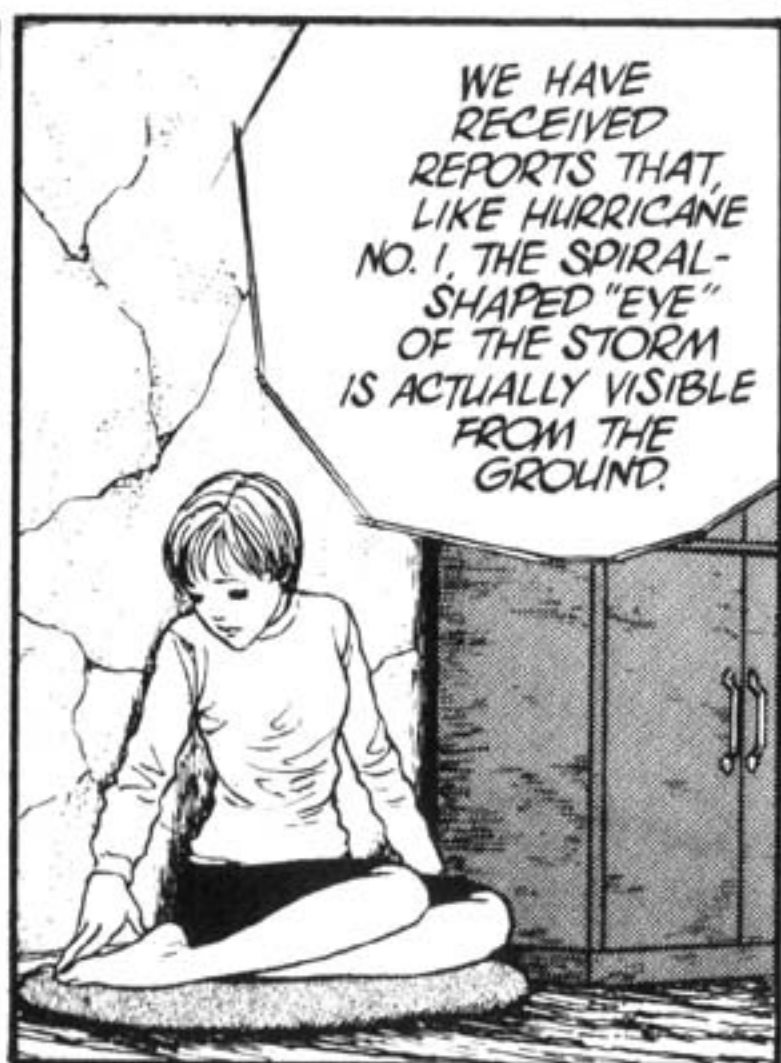
HAH...

I  
SEE...  
YOU'RE  
PRETTY  
HEADSTRONG,  
AREN'T  
YOU?



HURRI-  
CANE  
NO. 2  
HAS  
NOW  
REACHED  
KYŪSHŪ.

IT  
IS  
EXPECTED  
TO  
CONTINUE  
ITS  
COURSE  
UP  
THROUGH  
JAPAN.



WE HAVE  
RECEIVED  
REPORTS THAT,  
LIKE HURRICANE  
NO. 1, THE SPIRAL-  
SHAPED "EYE"  
OF THE STORM  
IS ACTUALLY VISIBLE  
FROM THE  
GROUND.



I'VE  
GOT  
SOME  
KIND OF  
WARTS  
ON MY  
FEET.

THERE'S  
LOTS  
OF  
THEM.

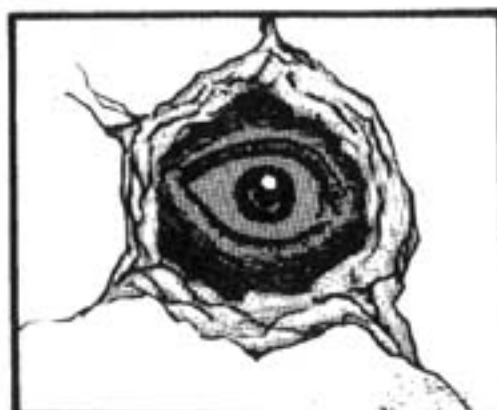
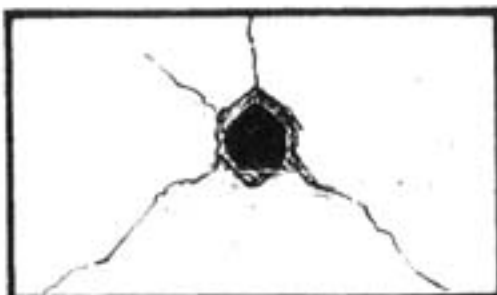
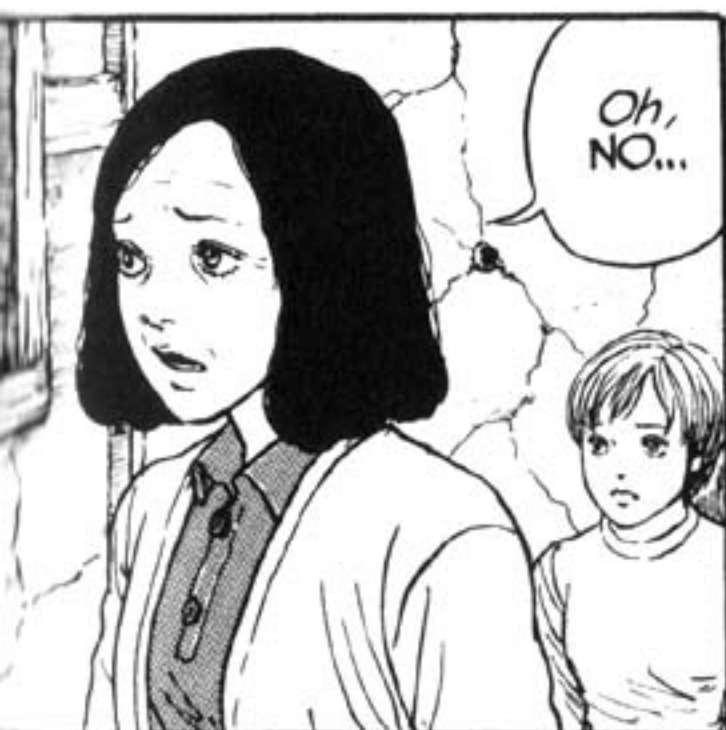
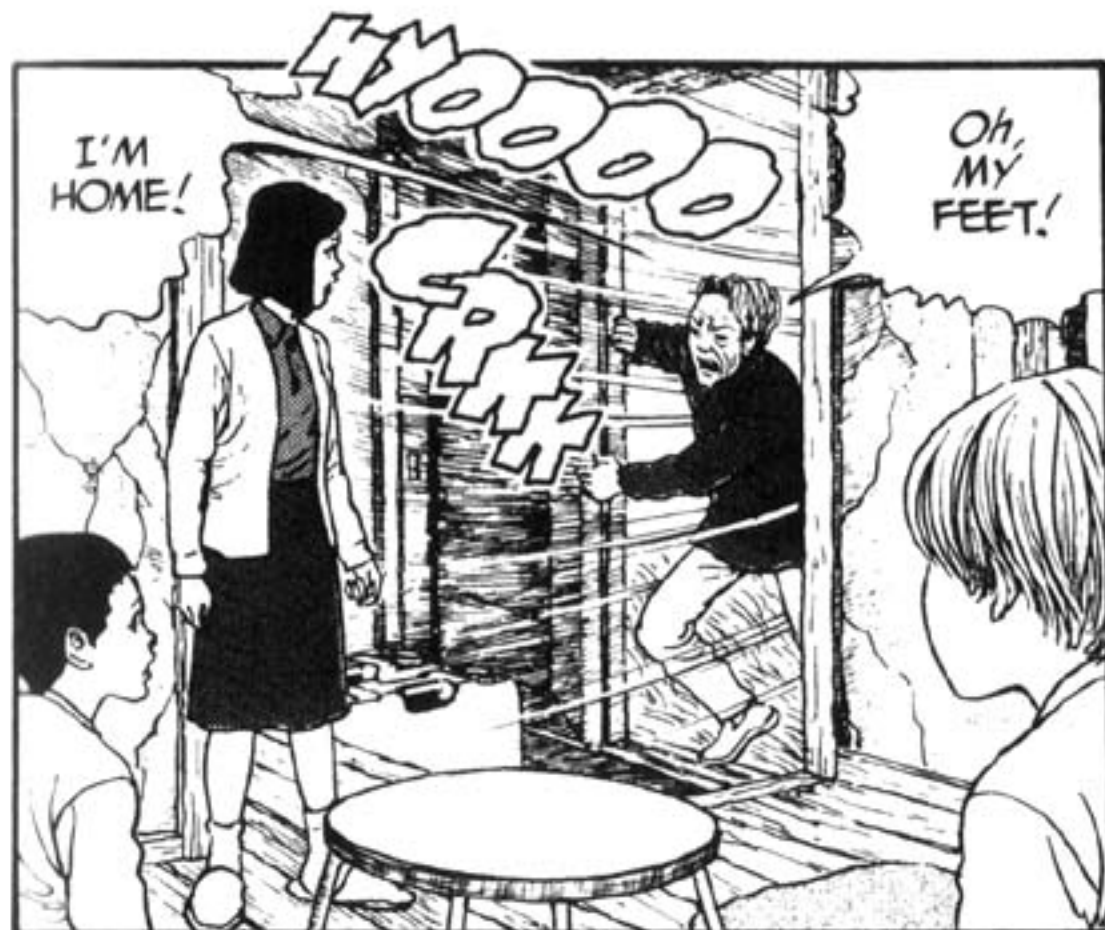


ME,  
TOO.  
THEY  
HURT!

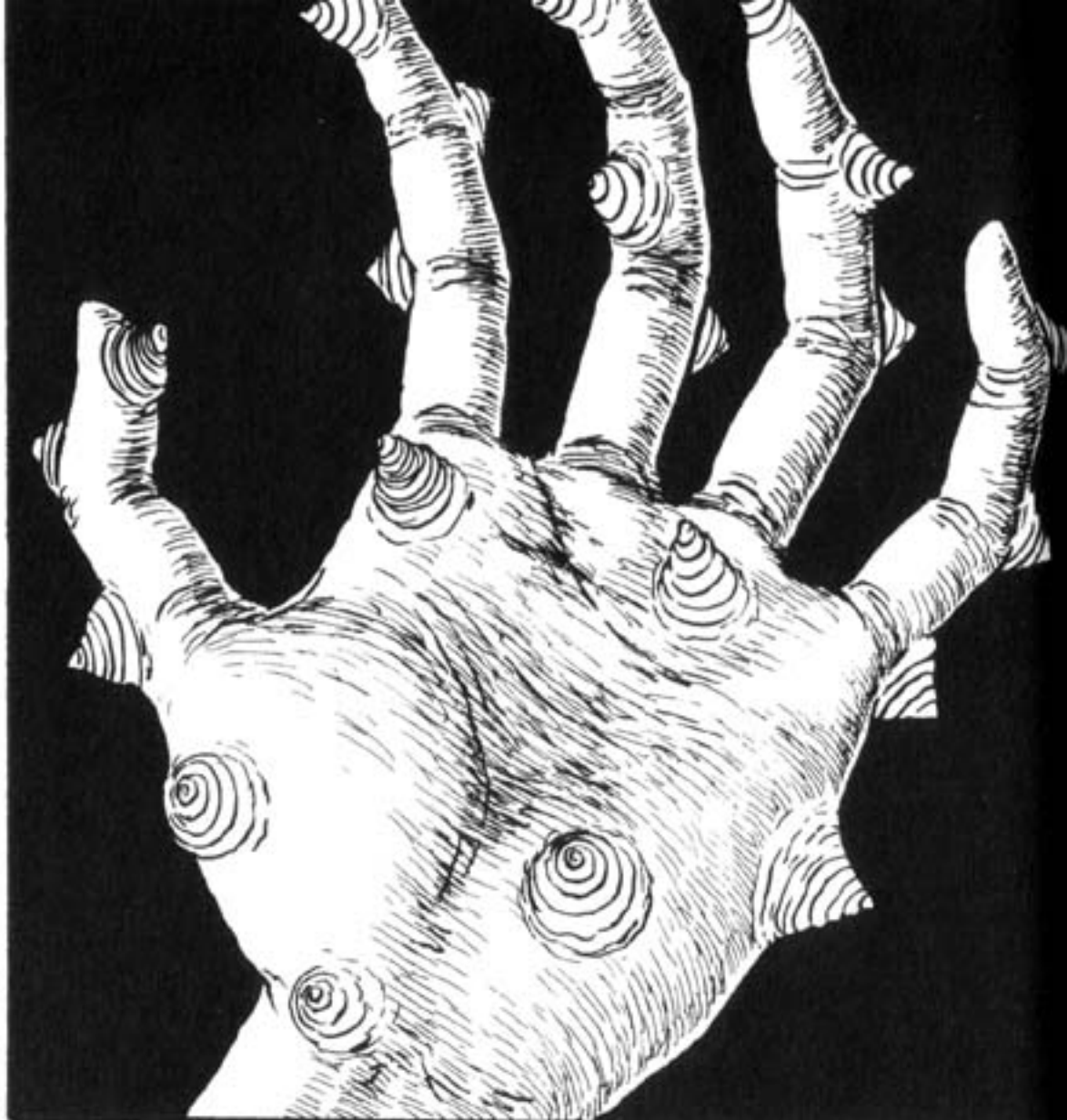
THEY'RE  
ON MY  
HANDS.

BOTH  
OF  
YOU? I  
HAVE  
THEM,  
TOO.









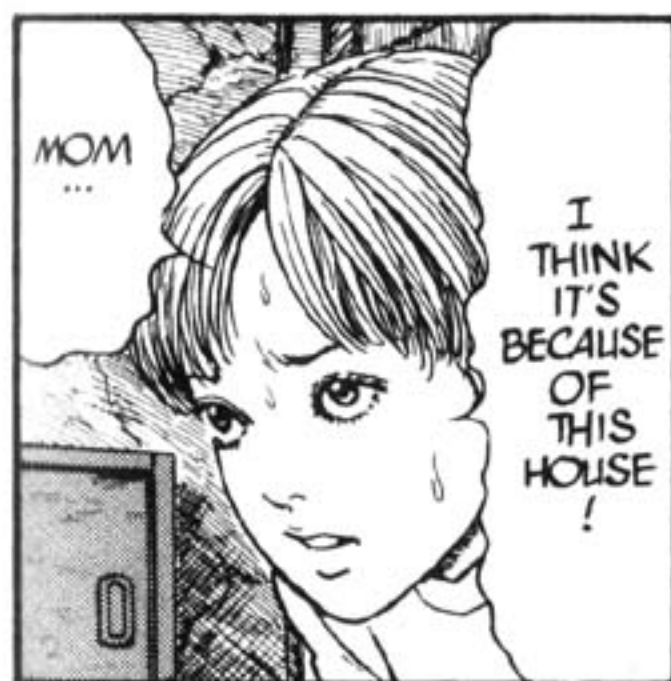
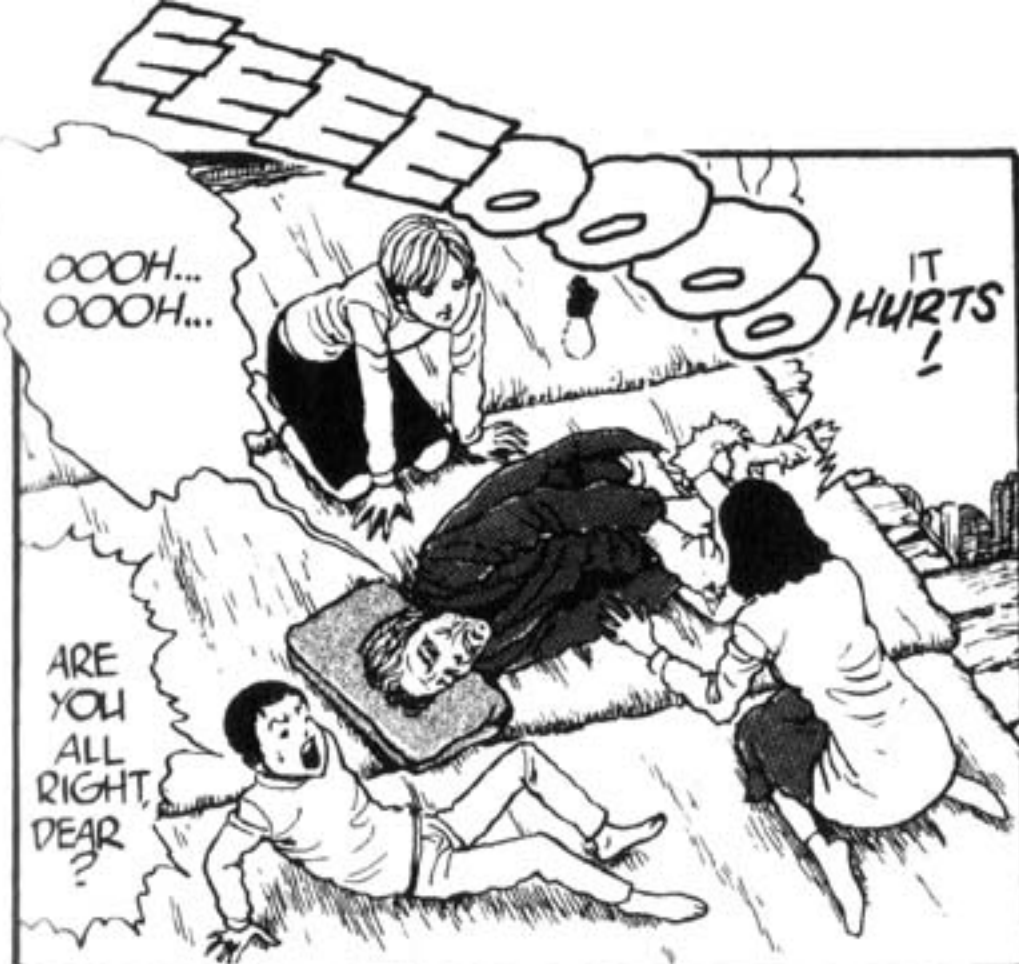




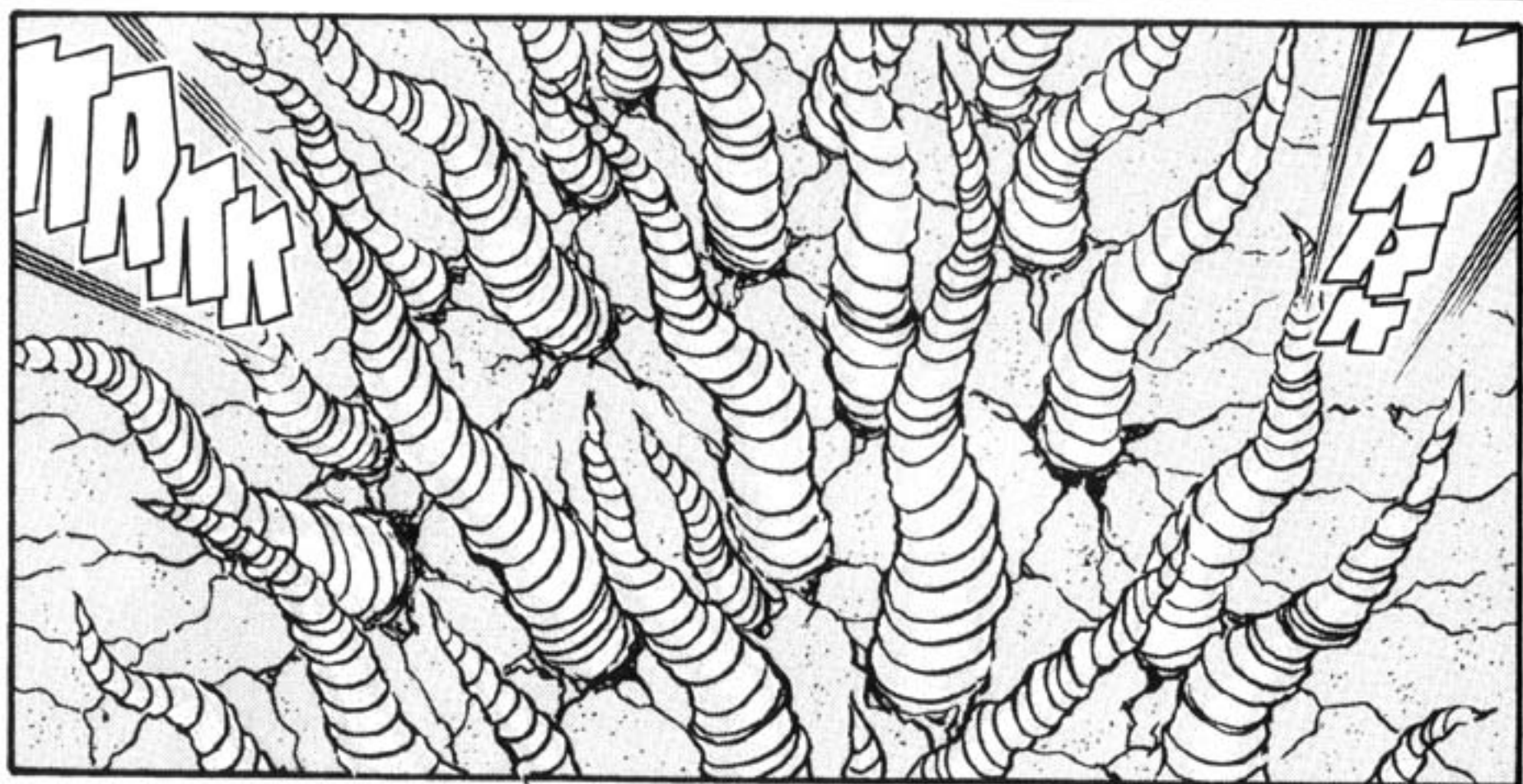
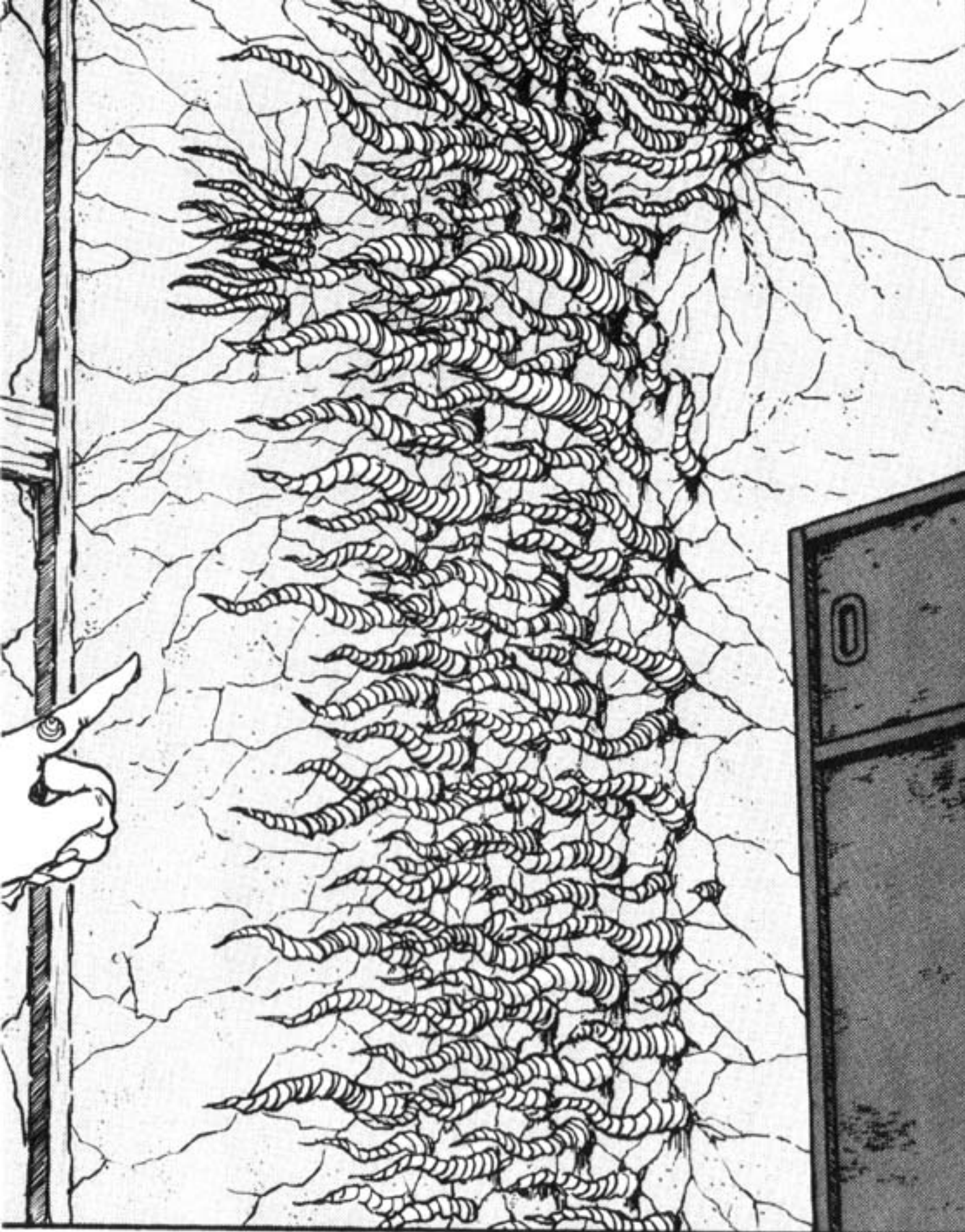












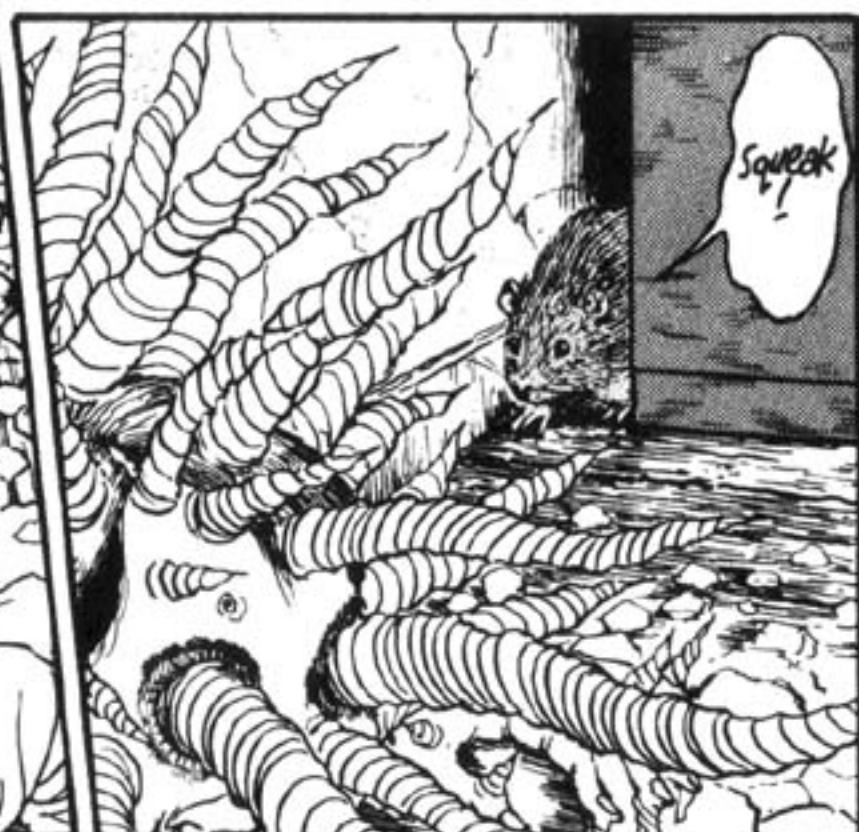




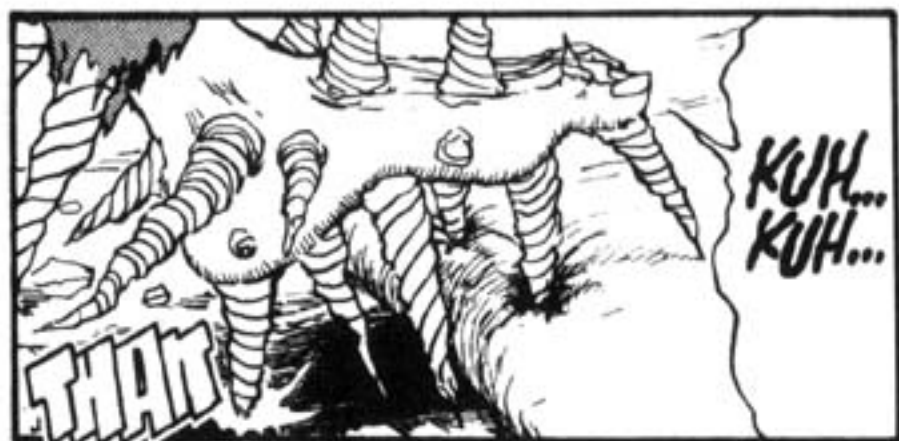




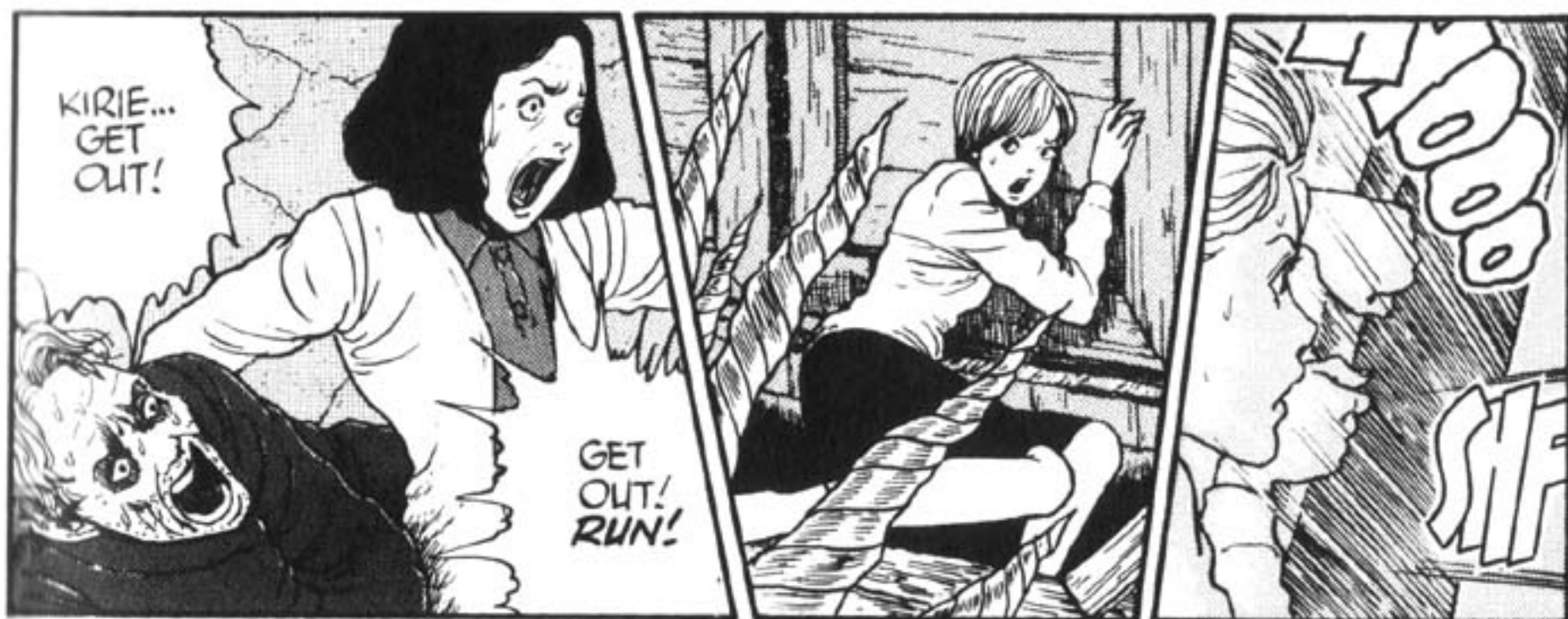




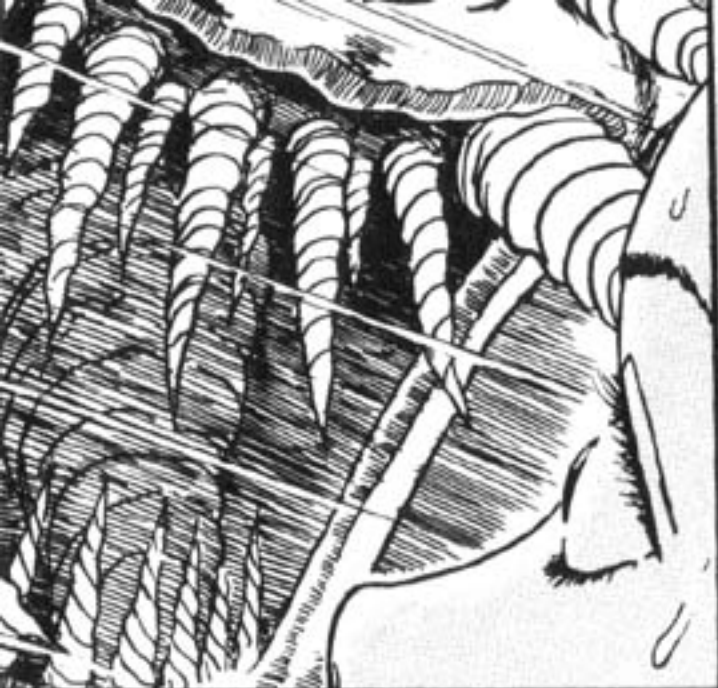




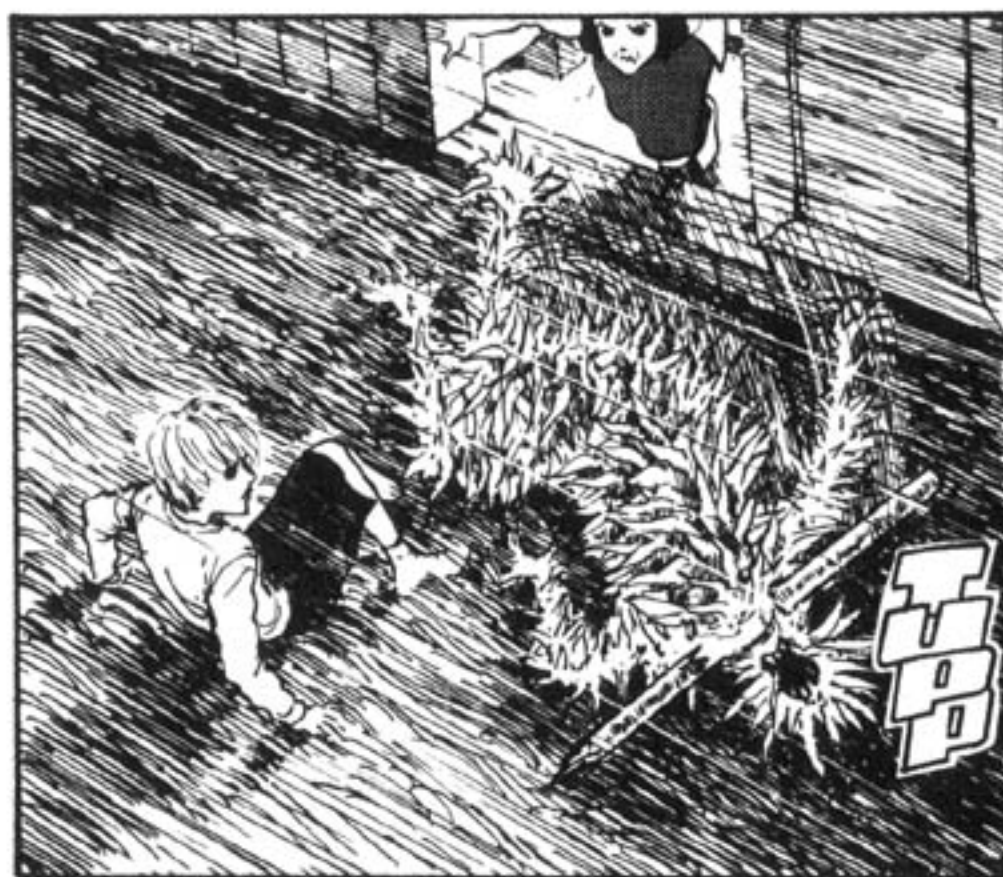








UKK...



NOT LONG AFTER,  
HURRICANE NO.2  
AND ITS ROAR  
WERE SUCKED  
INTO DRAGONFLY  
POND.

WE  
CRAWLED OUR  
WAY OUT  
OF THE  
ROW HOUSE,  
AND OUR  
SKIN DISEASE  
SOON WENT  
AWAY.





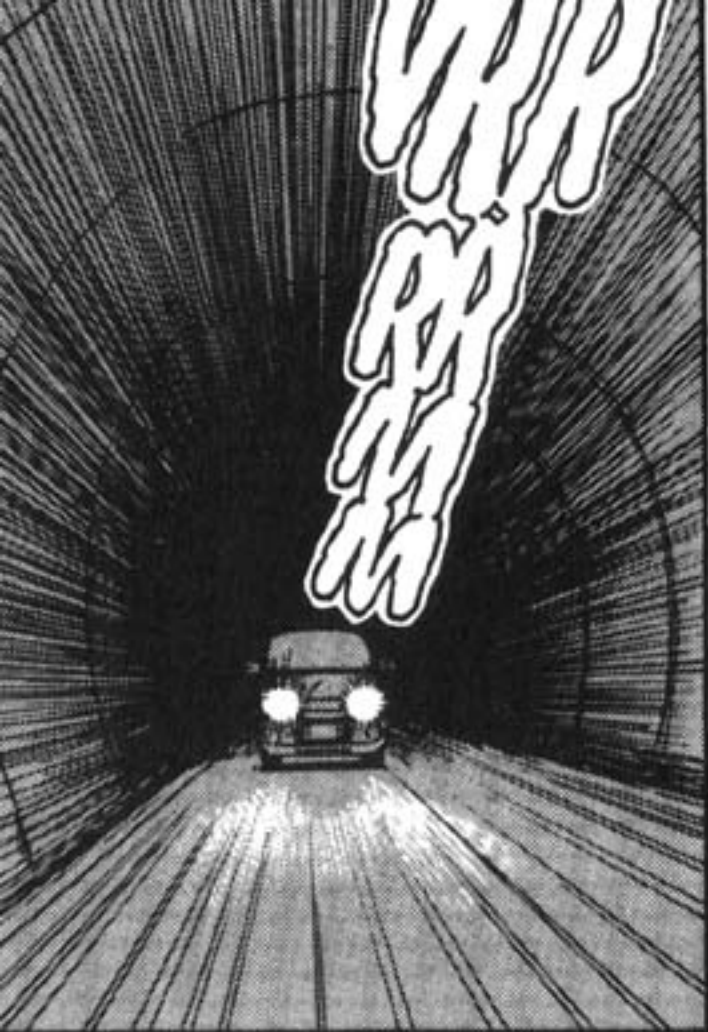
CHAPTER

14

BUTTERFLIES



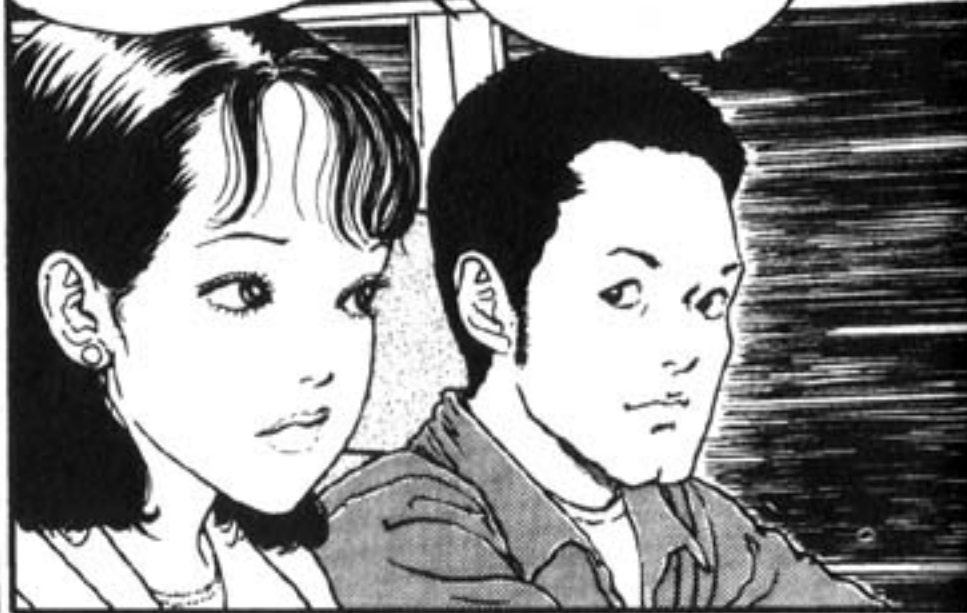




SO  
WHAT KIND  
OF PLACE  
IS THIS  
KURŌZU-  
CHO,  
ANYWAY?

IT'S A  
LITTLE TOWN  
TO THE WEST  
OF MIDORIYAMA-  
SHI, MS.  
MARIYAMA.

POPULATION  
6,000, TUCKED  
BETWEEN  
THE SEA  
AND THE  
MOUNTAINS.



I WISH  
THERE WAS  
MORE I  
COULD TELL  
YOU.

AFTER  
HURRICANE NO.1  
AND NO.2 THERE  
WERE REPORTS ON  
THE DAMAGE...

BUT  
WITH  
THE  
ONSLAUGHT  
OF  
HURRICANES  
3,4,5 AND 6,  
WE'VE LOST  
ALL CONTACT  
WITH THE  
INSIDE.

THERE  
COULD BE  
ANYTHING  
GOING ON  
IN THERE.

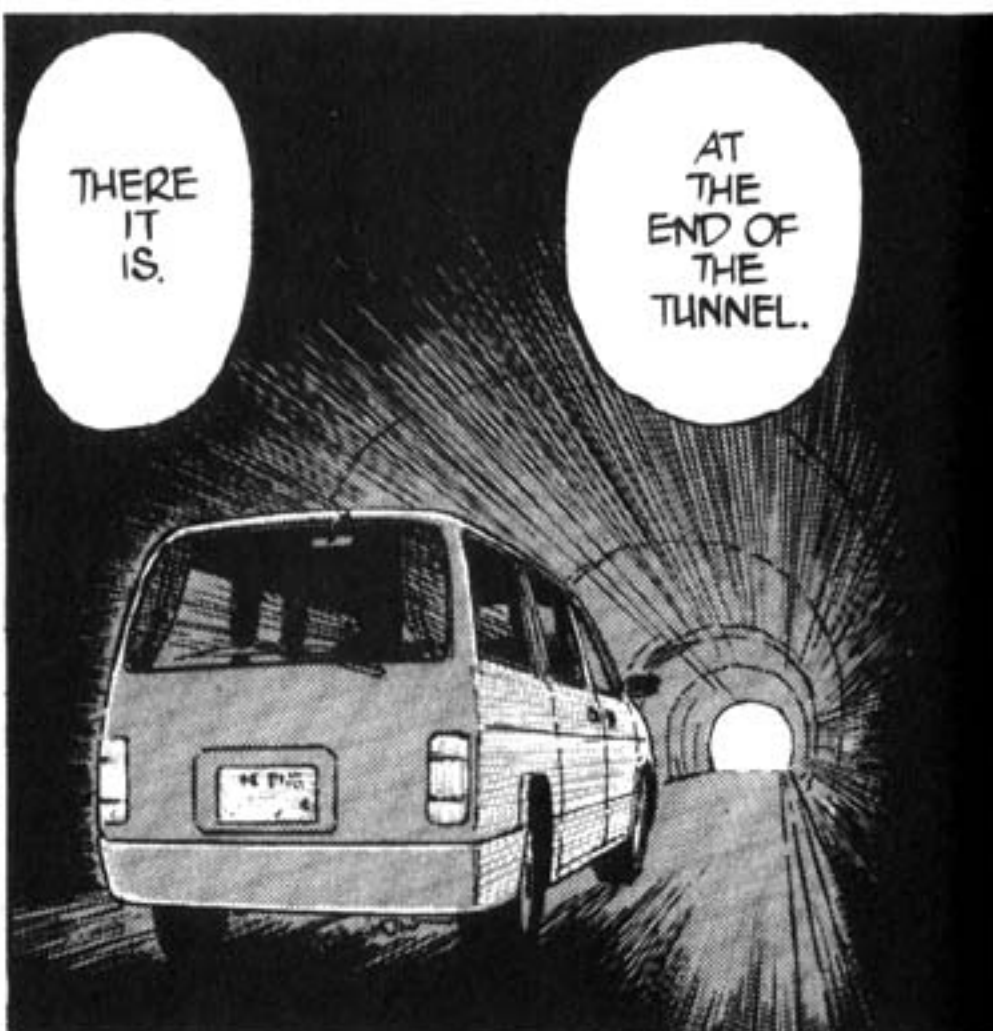


WE CAN'T  
BE THE FIRST  
REPORTERS TO  
GO IN. I WONDER  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO THE  
OTHERS?

WELL,  
THAT'S  
WHAT  
THEY  
SENT  
US TO  
FIND  
OUT.

THERE  
IT  
IS.

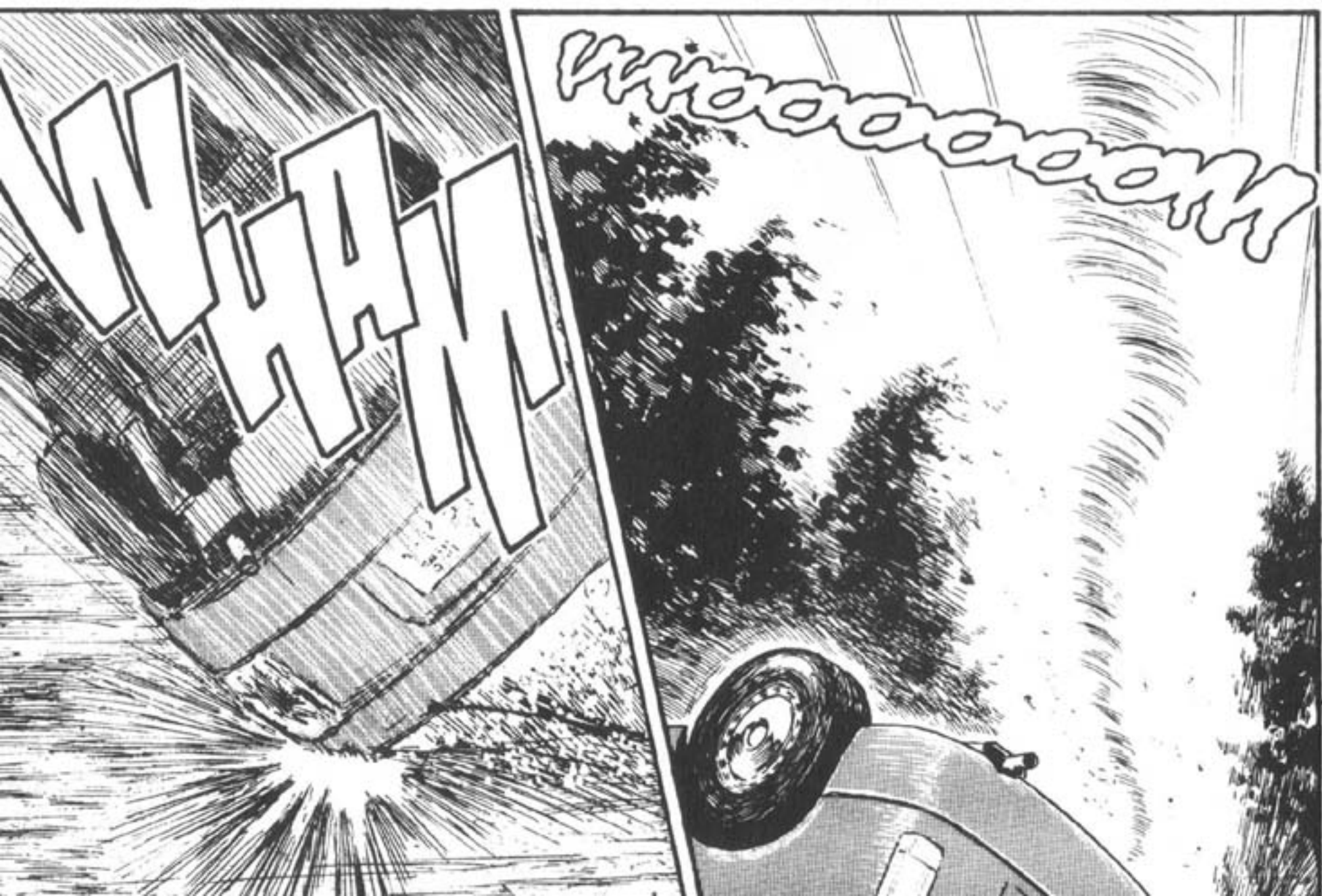
AT  
THE  
END OF  
THE  
TUNNEL.



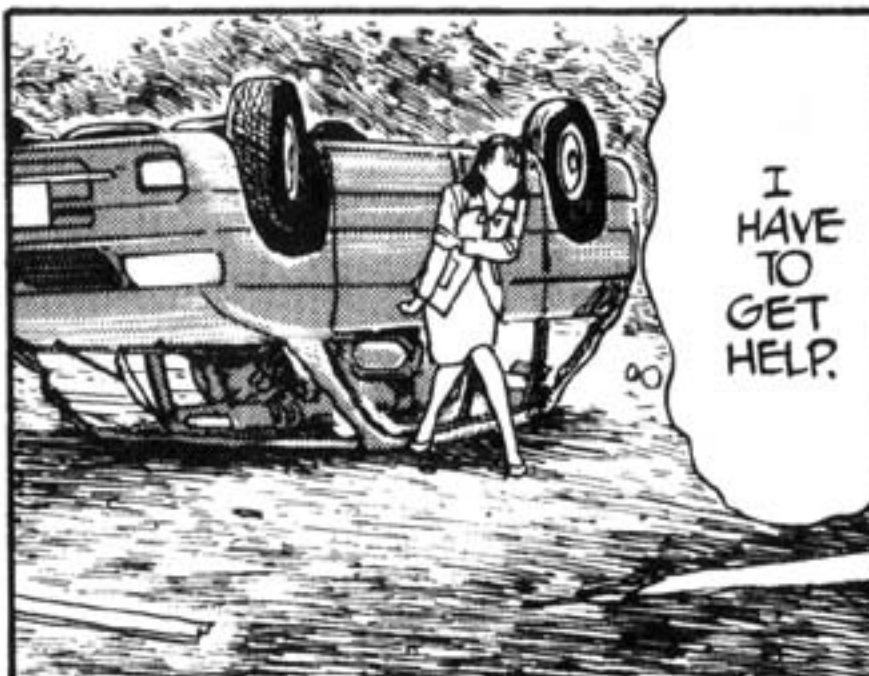








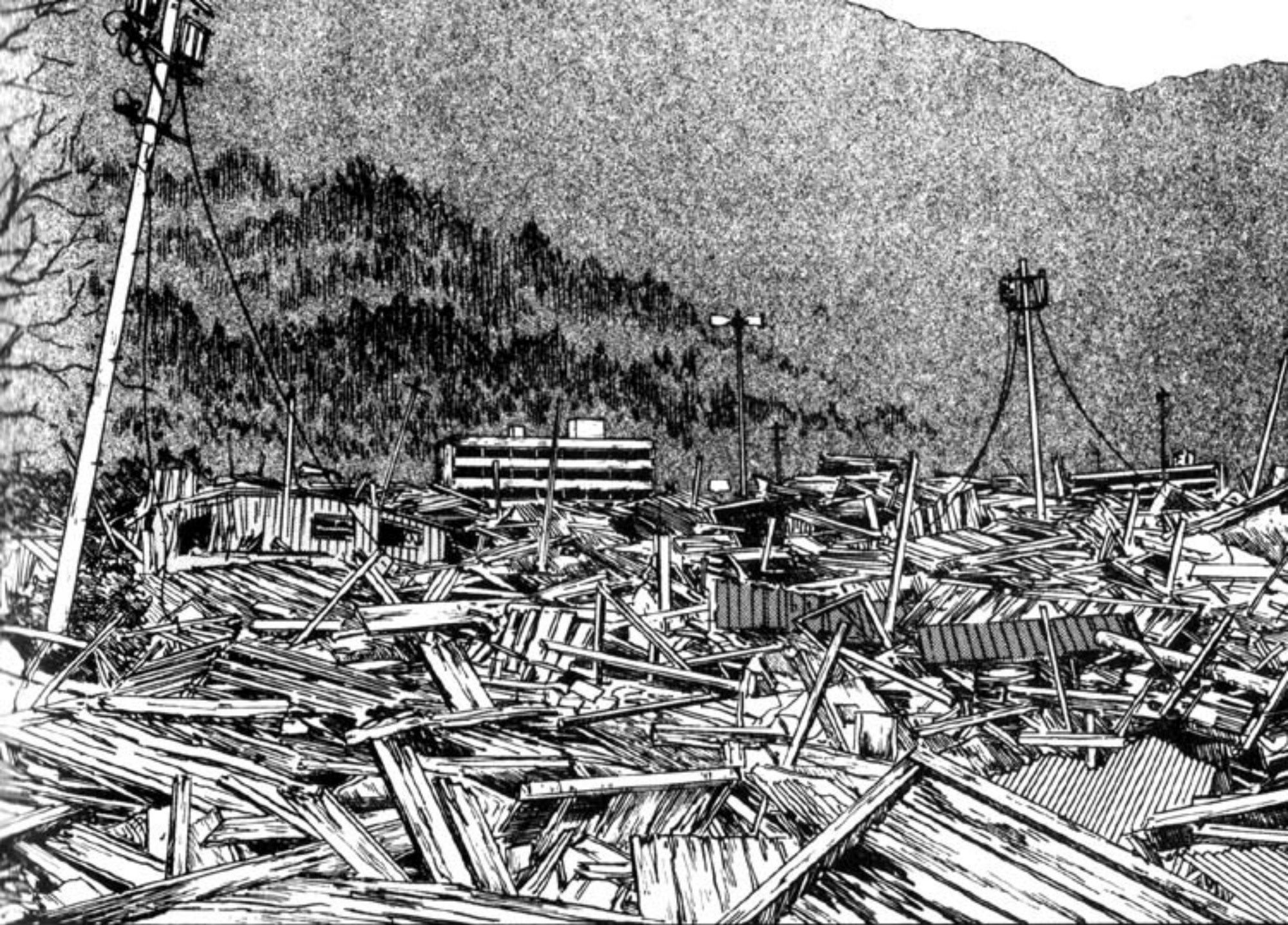




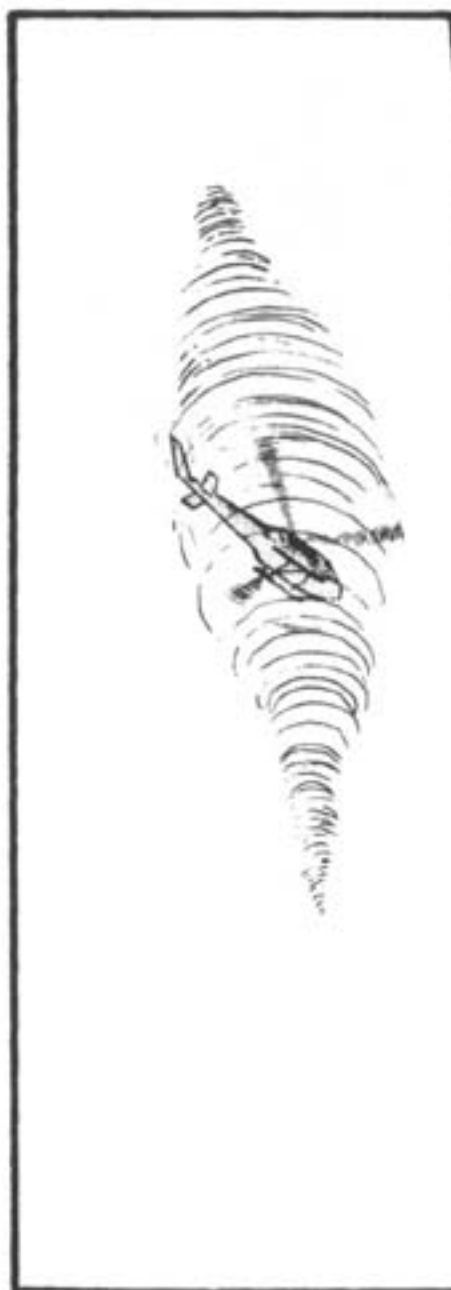








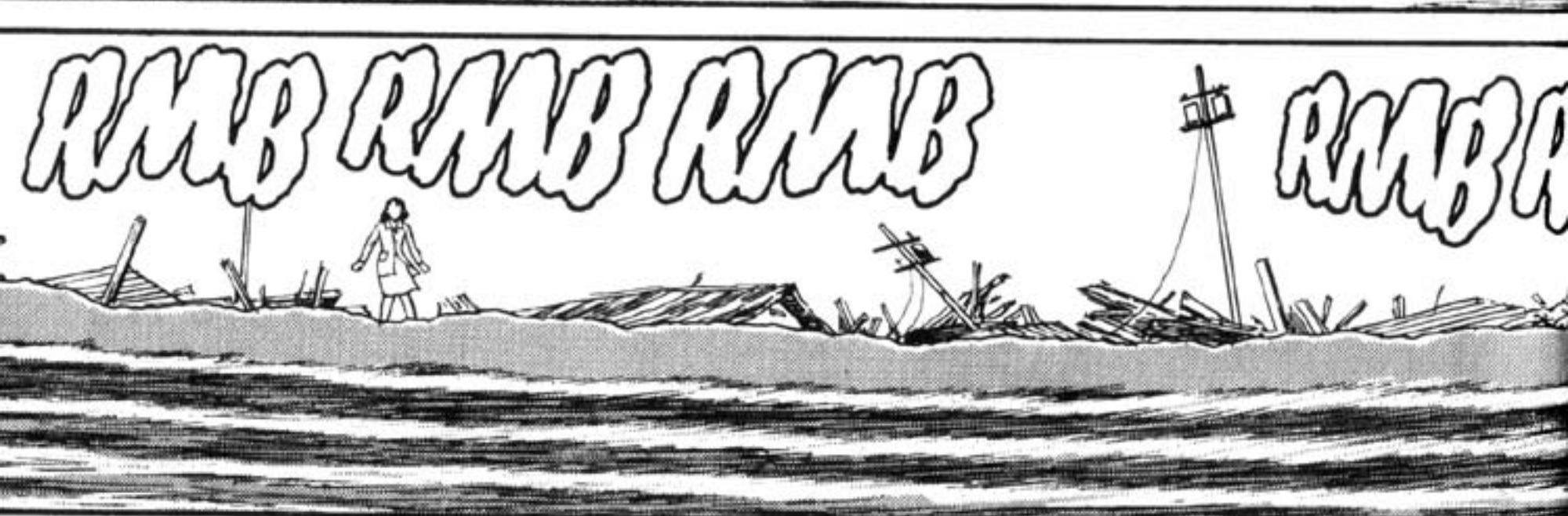








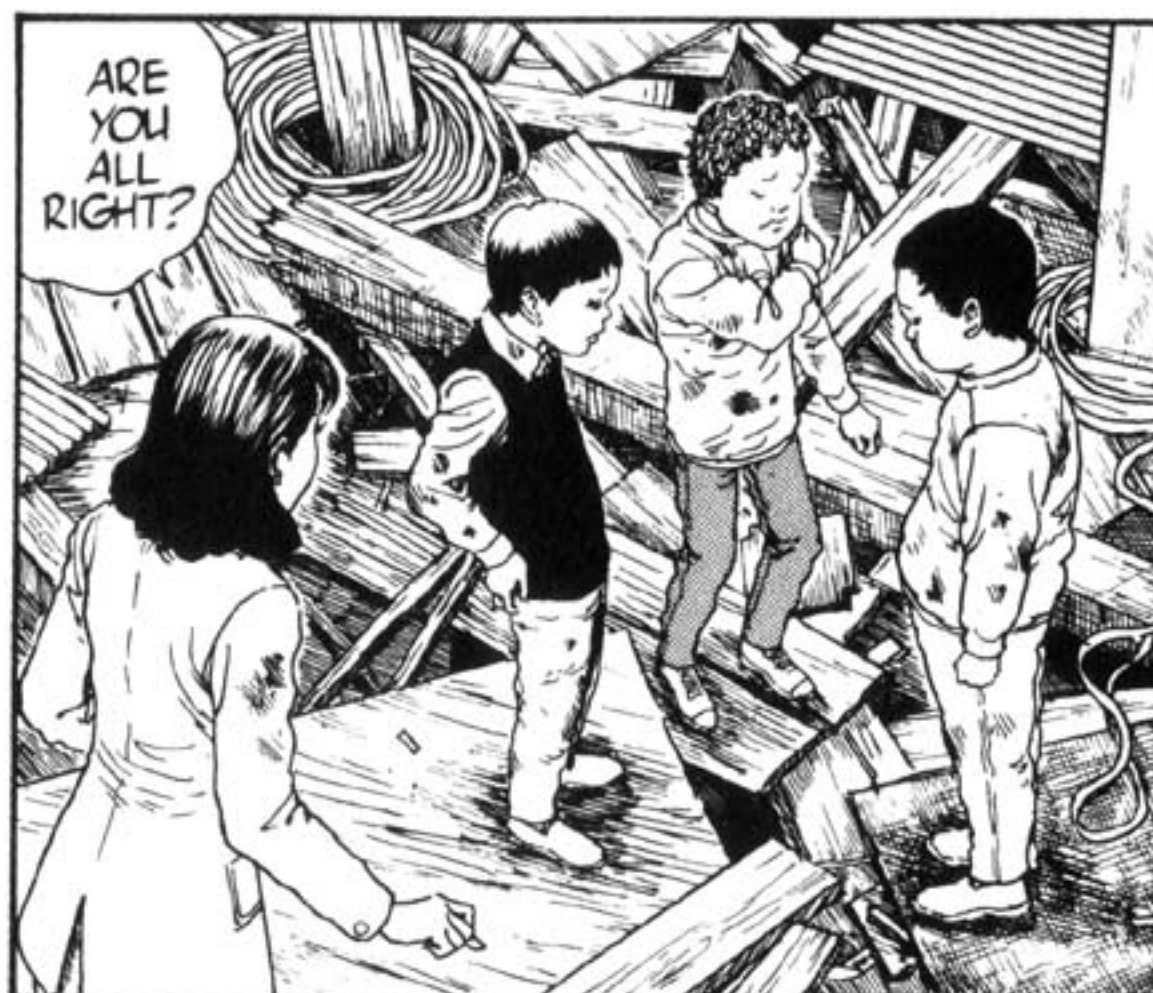












ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN TIED UP?

WHO DID THIS TO YOU?



...



WAIT!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



HEY!

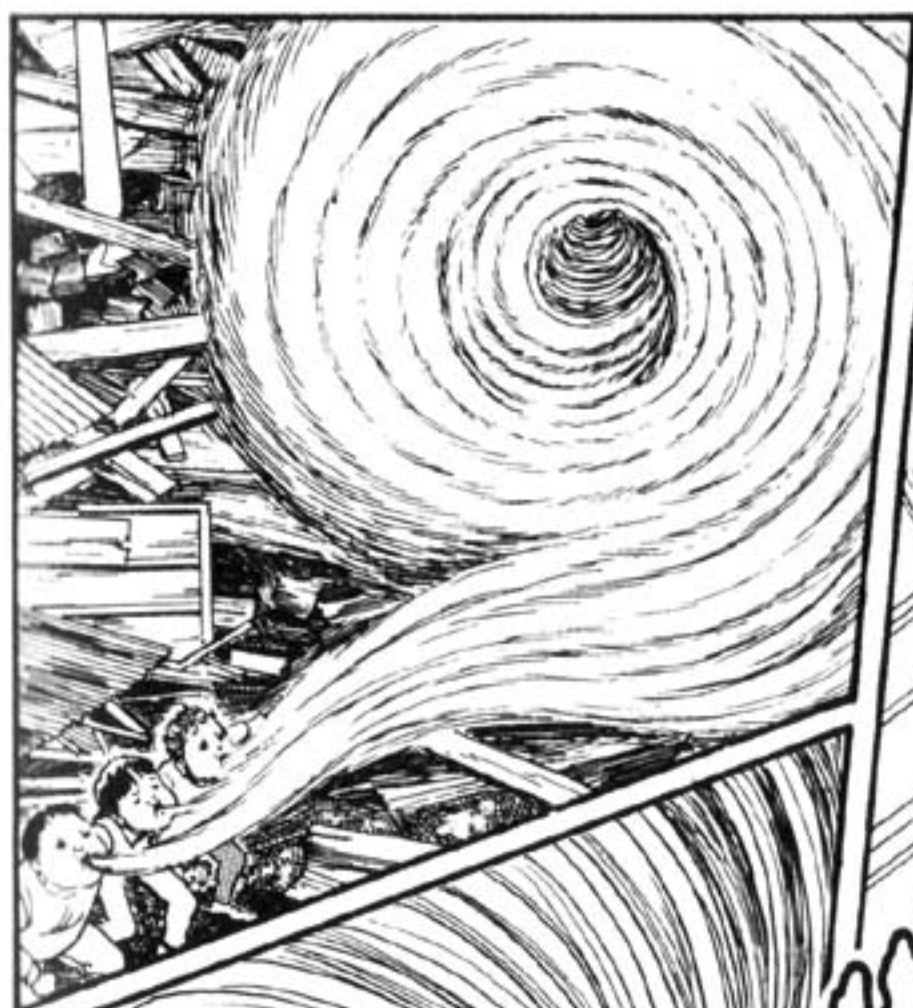
AREN'T THERE ANY ADULTS AROUND?



WAIT A MINUTE!







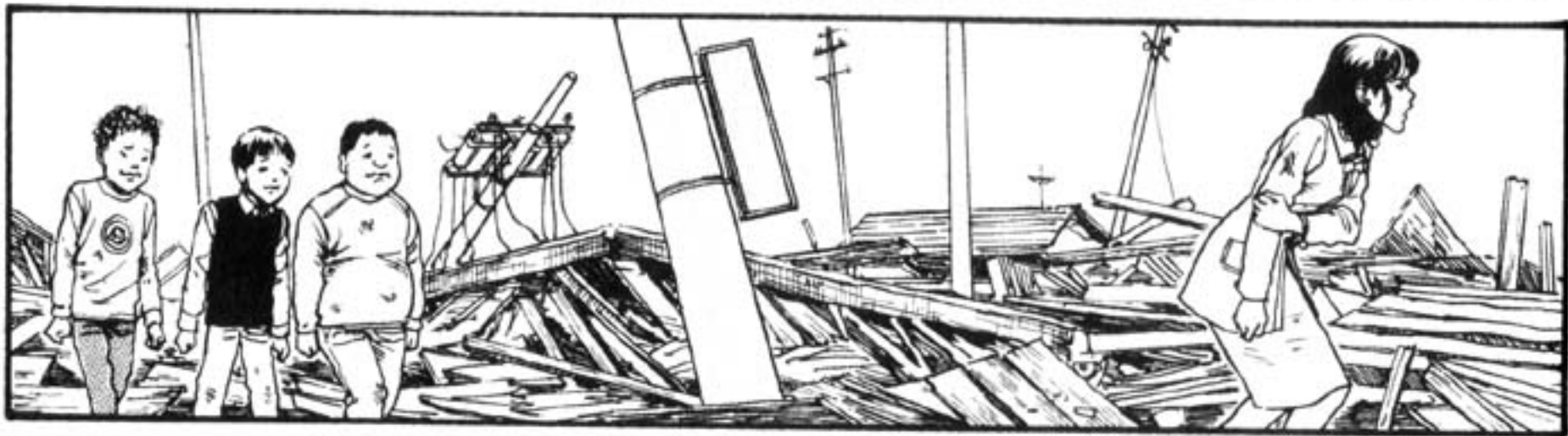








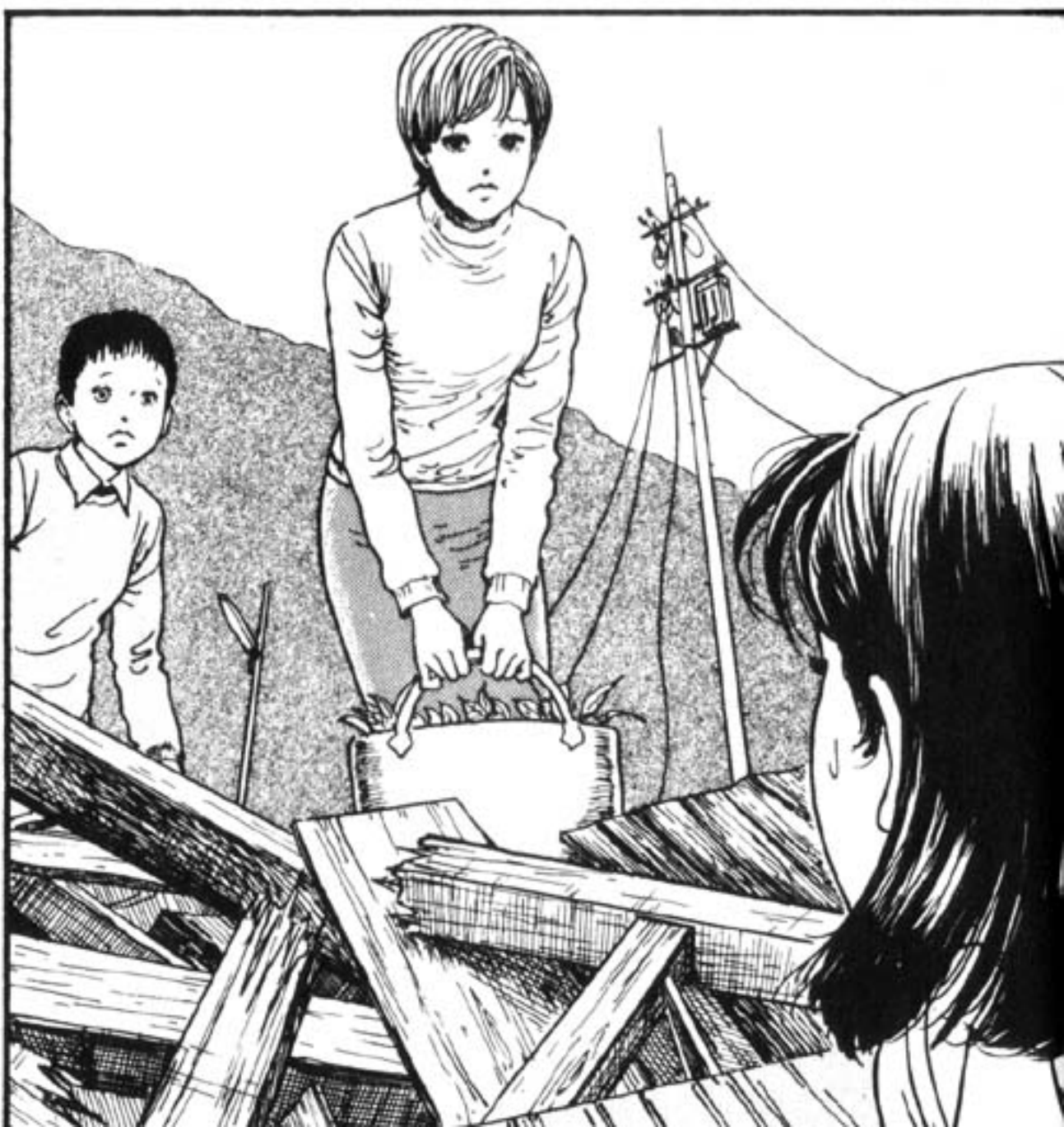














YOU  
LOOK  
HURT...CAN  
YOU  
WALK?

MITSUO,  
SLOW  
DOWN!

I-I'M  
A  
REPORTER  
FOR  
TOYO  
TELEVISION.  
MY  
NAME IS  
CHIE  
MARUYAMA...

TOYO  
TV?  
I  
THOUGHT  
YOU  
LOOKED  
FAMILIAR.

I'M  
KIRIE  
GOSHIMA.

THIS IS  
MY BROTHER  
MITSUO. RIGHT  
NOW WE'RE  
LOOKING FOR  
FOOD.

I'M  
REALLY  
CONFUSED.

WHAT...  
WHAT'S  
HAPPENING  
HERE?

SSHHH!  
YOU'RE  
MORE  
WINDED  
THAN  
YOU  
THINK...

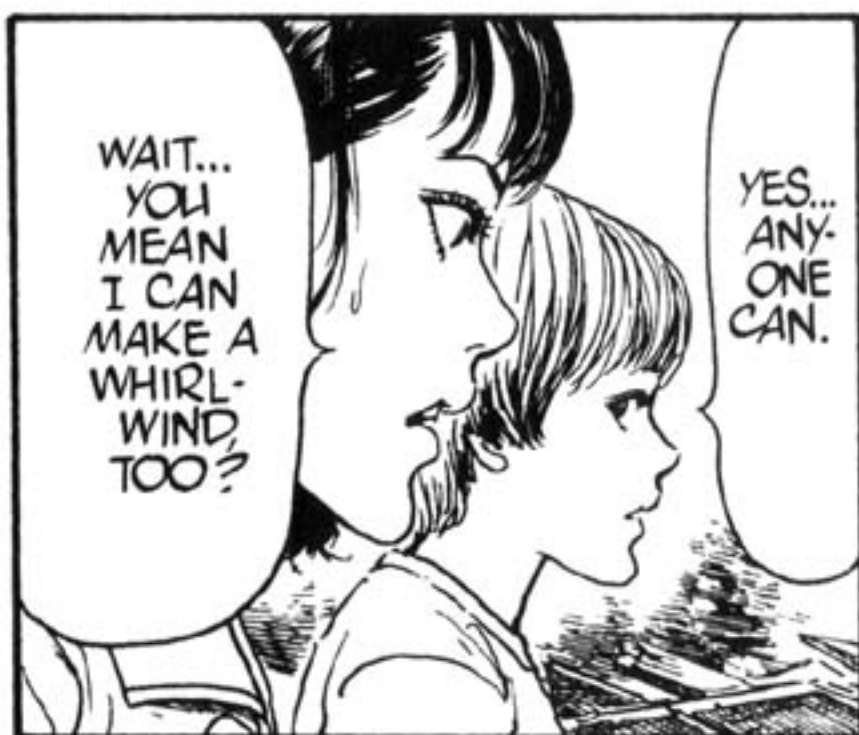
EVEN THE  
SLIGHTEST  
SUDDEN  
MOTION  
OR LOUD  
NOISE HERE  
CREATES  
AN  
IMMENSE  
WHIRLWIND.

THEY  
SAY IT'S  
BECAUSE OF  
THE FORCE, THE  
AIR PRESSURE,  
FROM THE  
HURRICANES  
SUCKED IN  
BY DRAGONFLY  
POND.

THAT  
LAKE  
SUCKED IN  
ALL THE  
HURRICANES.  
IT SWALLOWED  
ALL SIX  
OF THEM.

NOW  
IT'S A  
WHIRLPOOL  
THAT  
NEVER  
STOPS.









WE'RE  
ALMOST  
THERE.



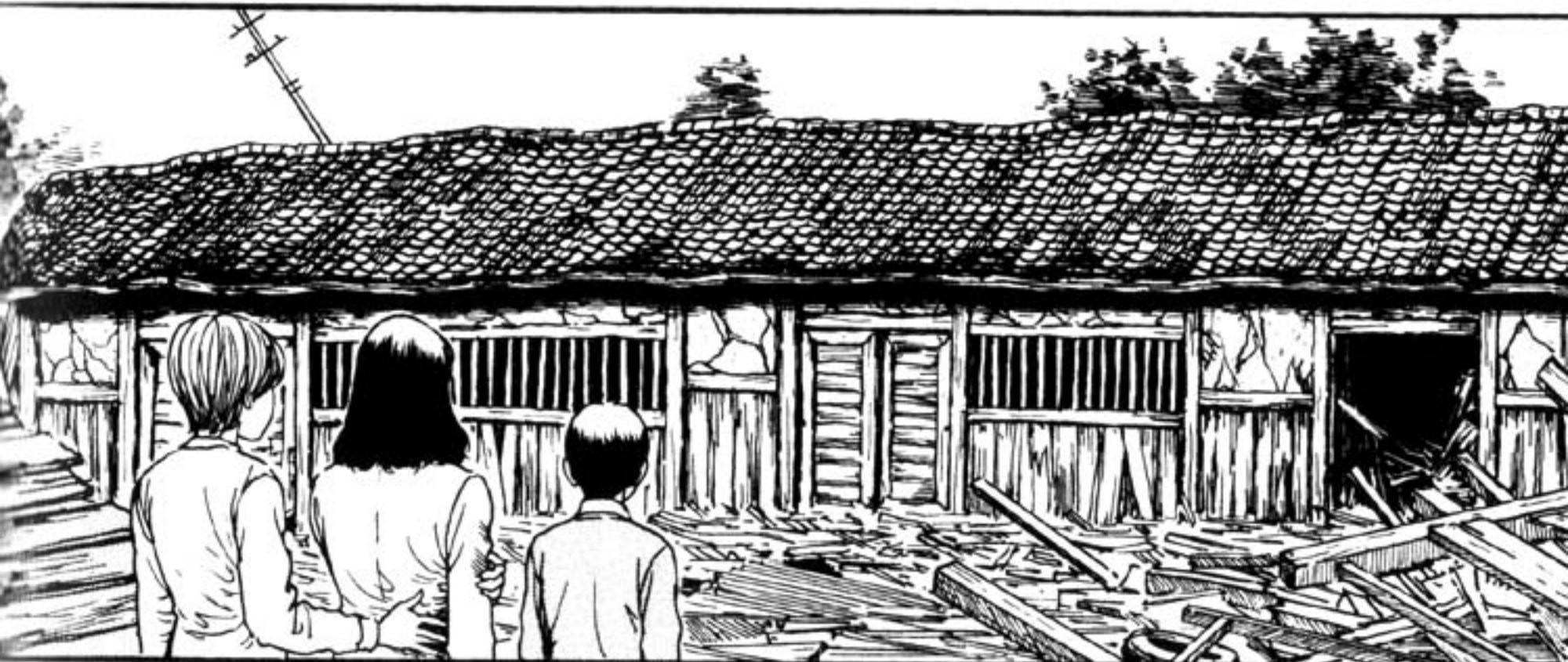
THIS IS  
LIKE THE  
"BUTTERFLY  
EFFECT"...

Hm?



"A BUTTERFLY  
FLAPPING ITS  
WINGS CAN  
CAUSE A  
HURRICANE ON  
THE OTHER SIDE  
OF THE  
WORLD."

THAT'S  
WHAT'S  
HAPPENING  
IN  
THIS  
TOWN.



THIS  
IS THE  
PLACE  
WHERE WE  
LIVE.

YOU'D  
BETTER  
COME  
IN.



IT'S  
AN OLD  
RUN-  
DOWN  
SHACK.

THERE'S  
LOTS  
OF  
THEM  
AROUND  
HERE.





FOR WHATEVER REASON, THOUGH, THIS BUILDING DIDN'T SUFFER ANY DAMAGE.

THE OTHER ROW HOUSES ARE FINE, TOO. IT'S STRANGE BECAUSE THEY WERE IN TERRIBLE SHAPE TO BEGIN WITH.



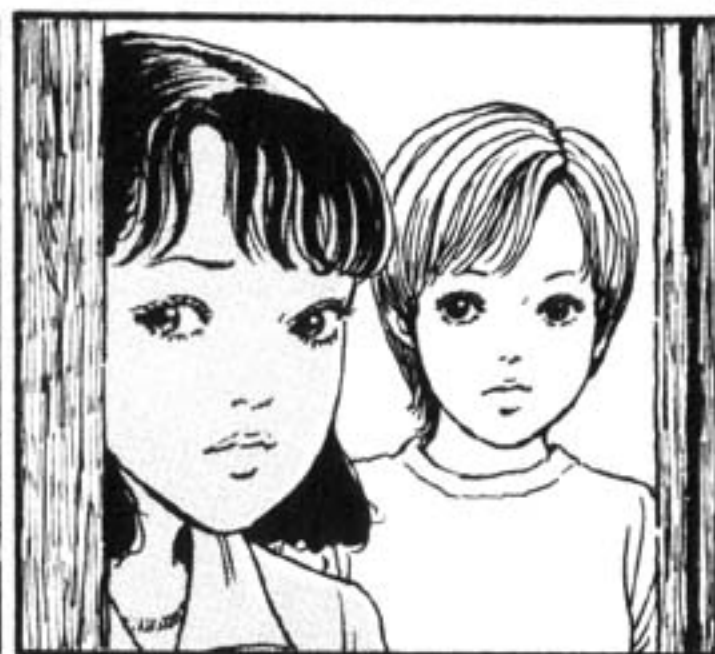
WE'RE HOME.



COME ON IN.

YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE. UNLIKE OUR OLD PLACE, IT'S NOT INFECTED.

Infected

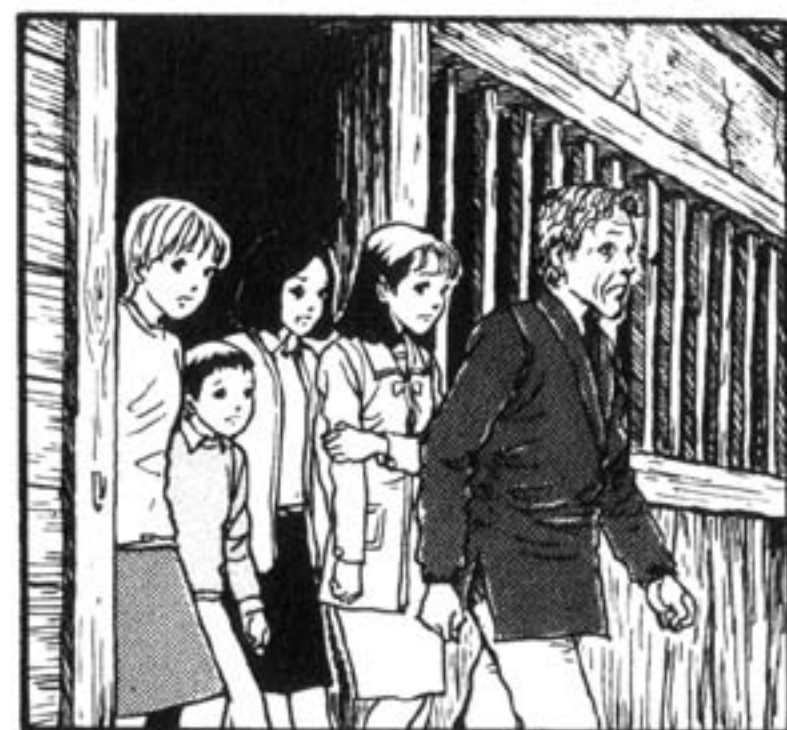


KIRIE... DID YOU BRING OVER A GUEST?





















DAMN  
BRATS! I  
THOUGHT WE  
TIED THEM  
UP!

THEY  
MUST  
HAVE  
GOTTEN  
FREE SOME-  
HOW!

WE  
CAN'T  
LIFT  
A  
FINGER  
AGAINST  
THEM!

EVER  
SINCE  
THEY  
WERE  
ORPHANED  
BY THE  
HURRICANE  
...



THEY'VE  
BEEN  
ROAMING  
THE STREETS,  
BLOWING  
DOWN  
ALL THE  
HOUSES  
THEY  
SEE.

KIDS  
LIKE  
THEM  
HAVE  
DESTROYED  
HALF  
THIS  
TOWN!

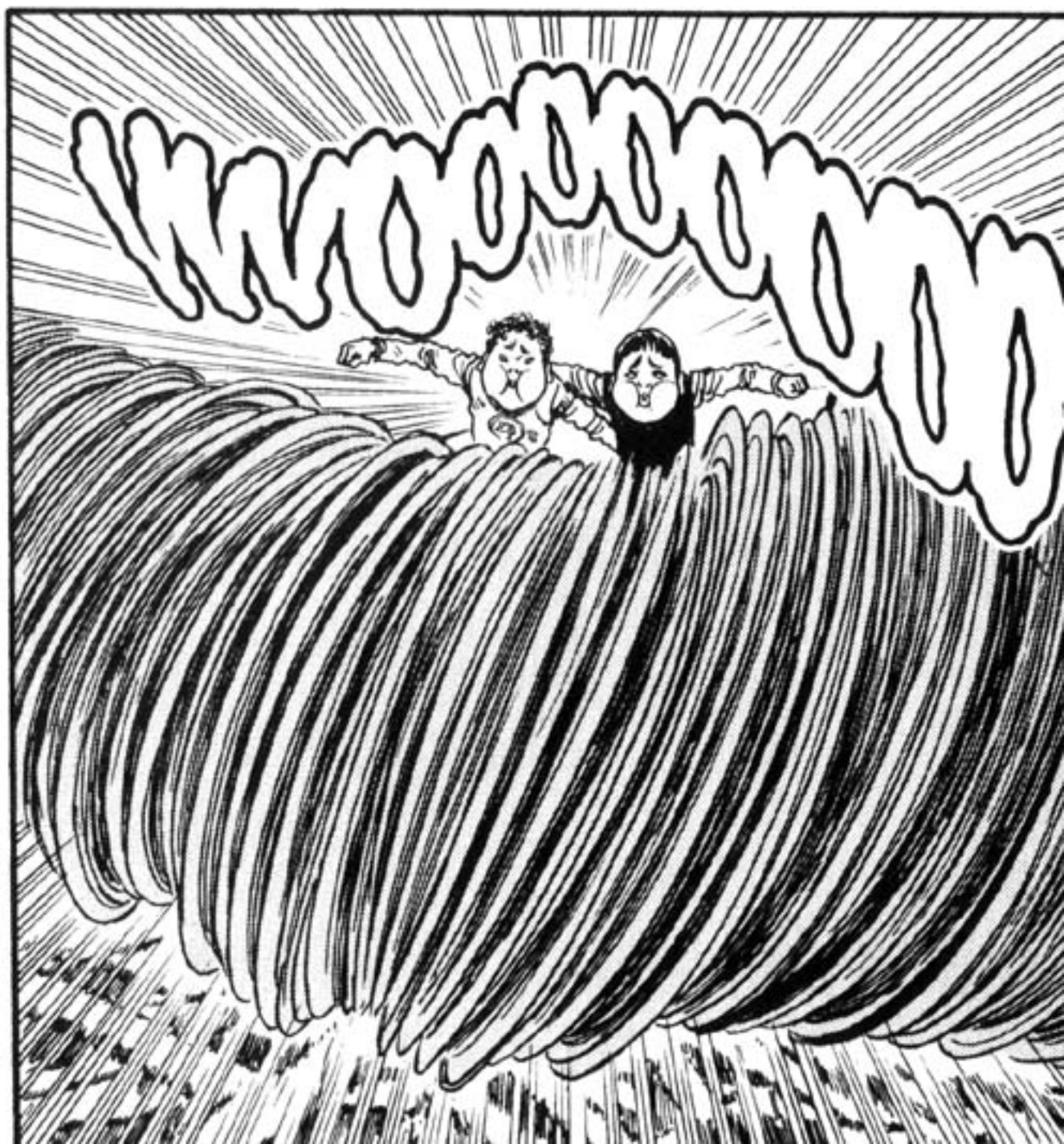


WE CAN  
BRING THIS  
DUMP DOWN IN  
A SECOND.

YEAH.



**FWOO!**







THAT'S WEIRD...  
IT WON'T FALL  
APART.

EVEN  
THOUGH  
IT'S  
ALL  
RUINED?



GOD  
DAMN  
HOUSE!

THEN  
TAKE  
THIS!!



HERE WE GO!!

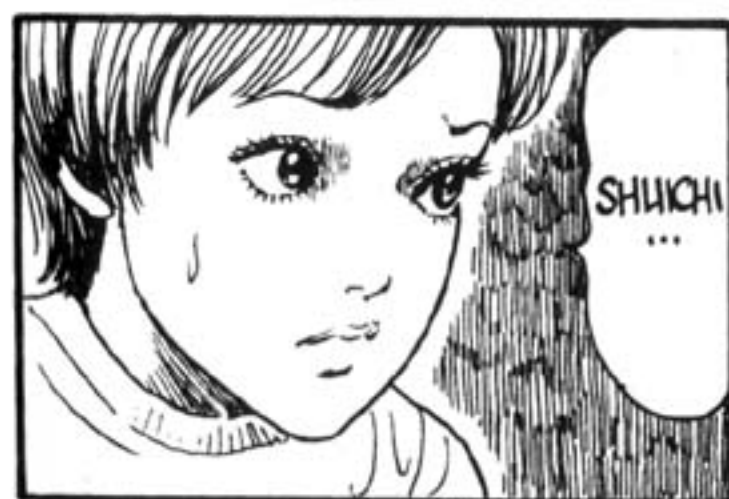
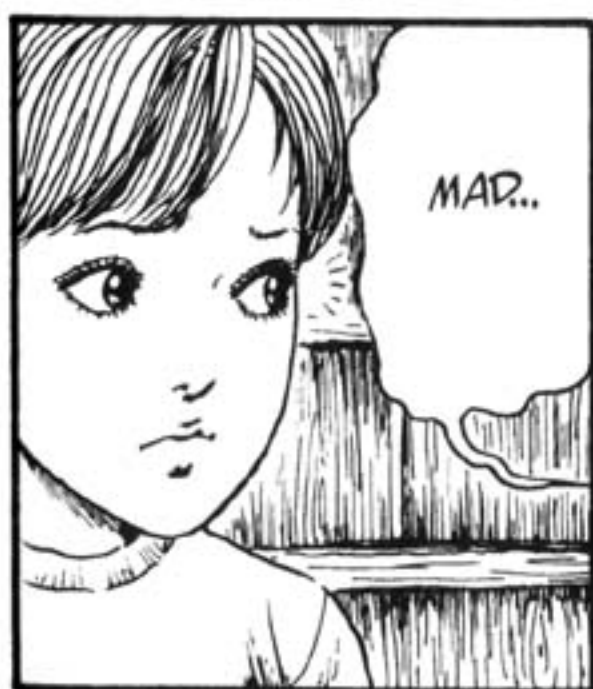
















ARRGH!  
NO WAY!



HOW  
DID THEY  
LEARN  
TO DO  
THAT?

LOOK  
AT  
THAT!



THEY'RE  
WHEELING  
AROUND  
LIKE  
BUTTERFLIES!

KYA  
HA  
HA  
HA!

KURŌZU-  
CHO...  
WAS  
GOING  
MAD.



CHAPTER

15

GA  
OS





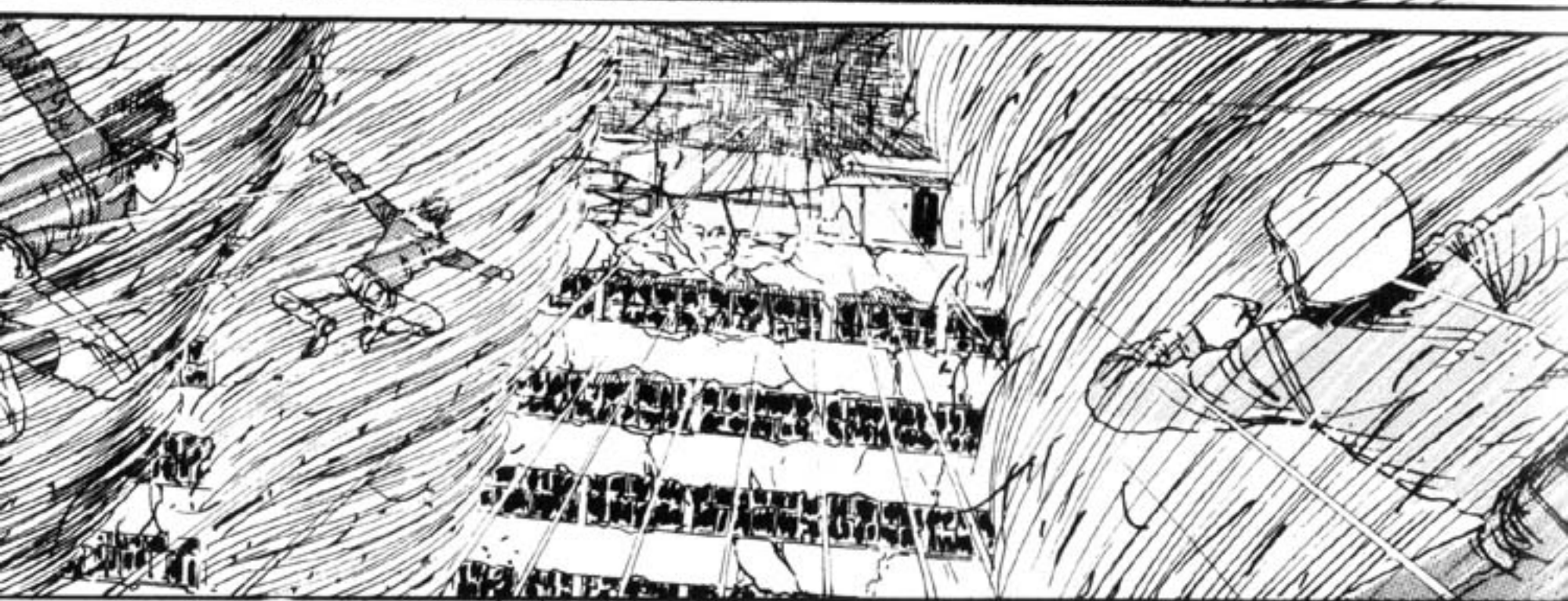








# YEEAAHHH!

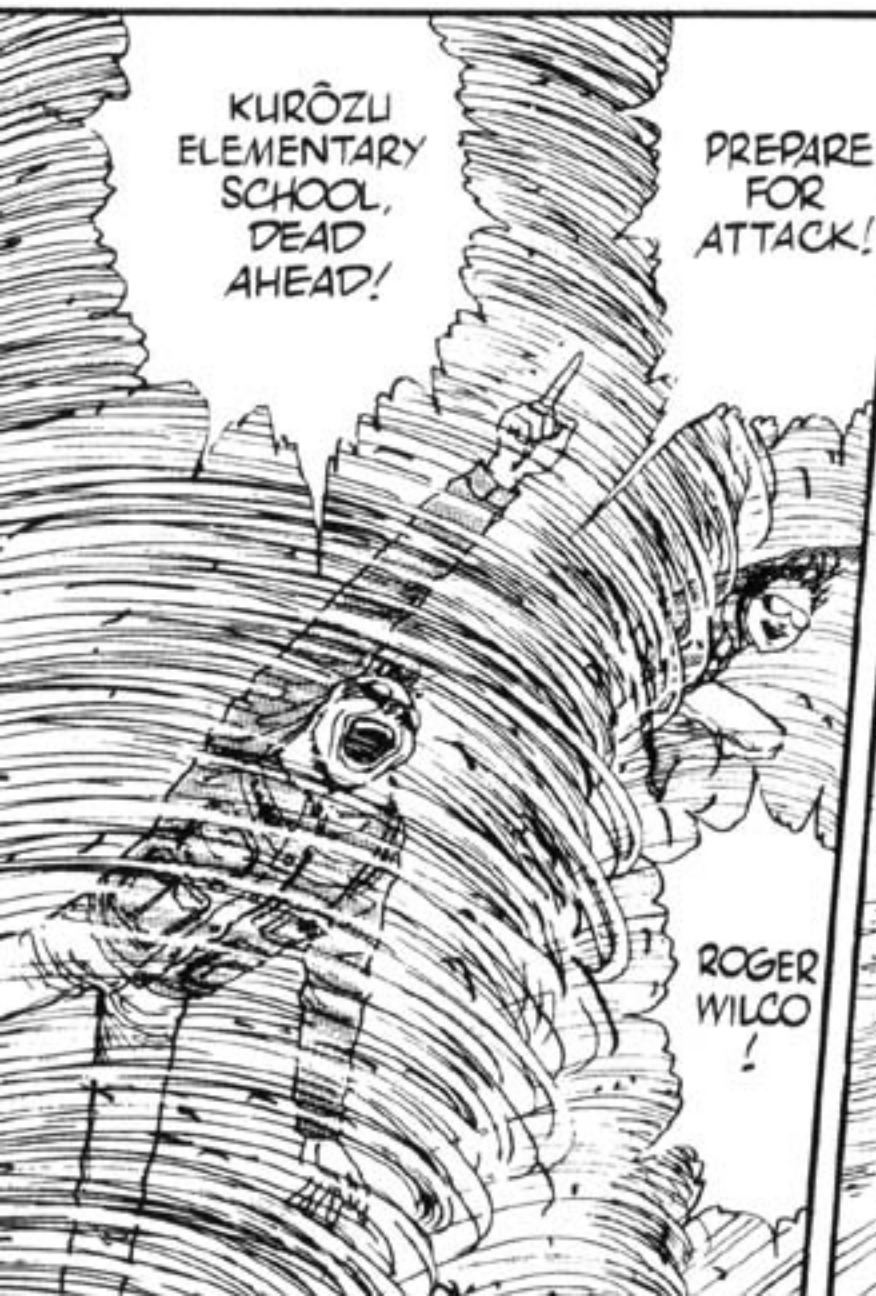


KURÔZU  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL,  
DEAD  
AHEAD!

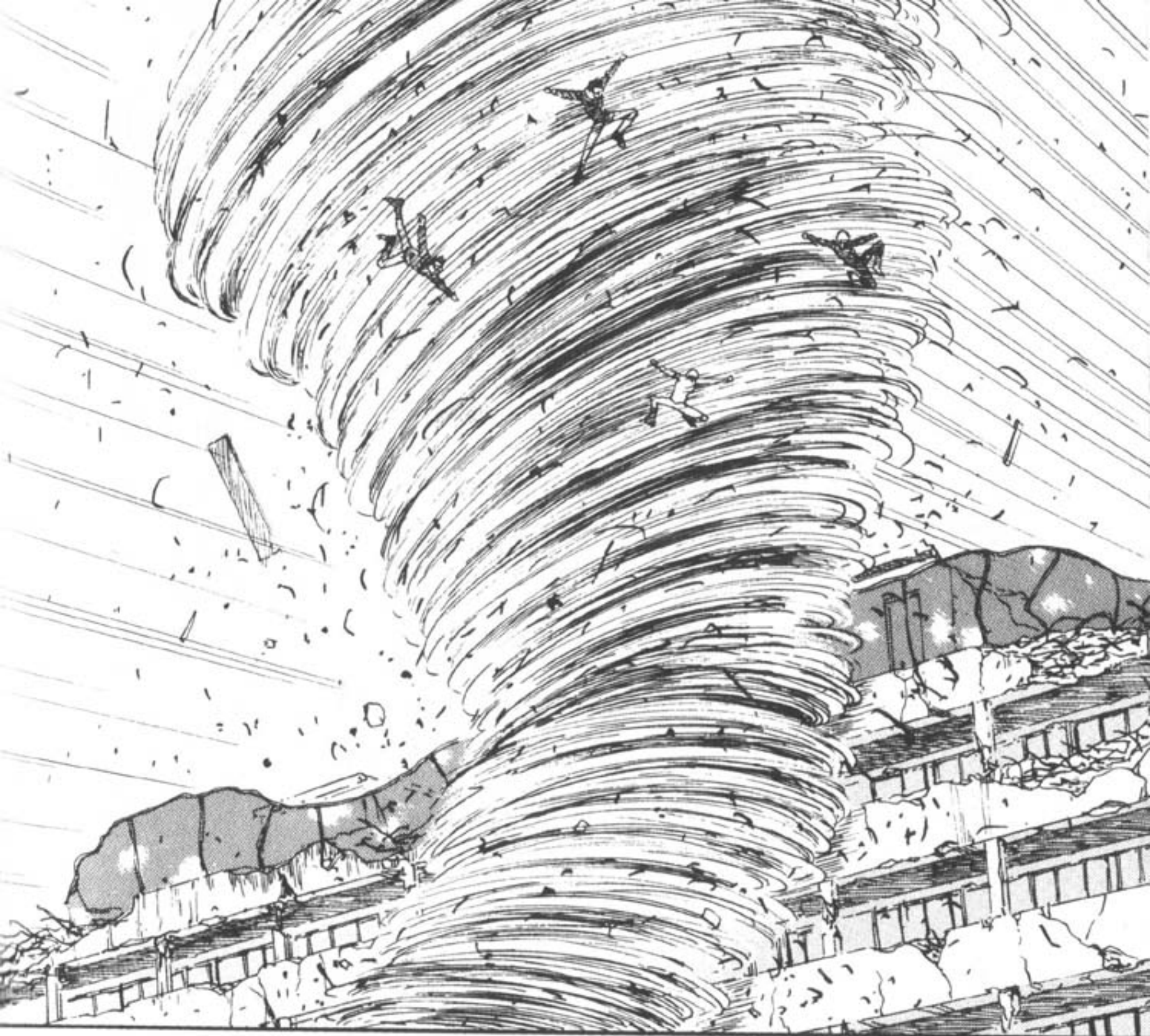
PREPARE  
FOR  
ATTACK!

ROGER  
WILCO  
!

UNITE  
AND  
ATTACK  
!



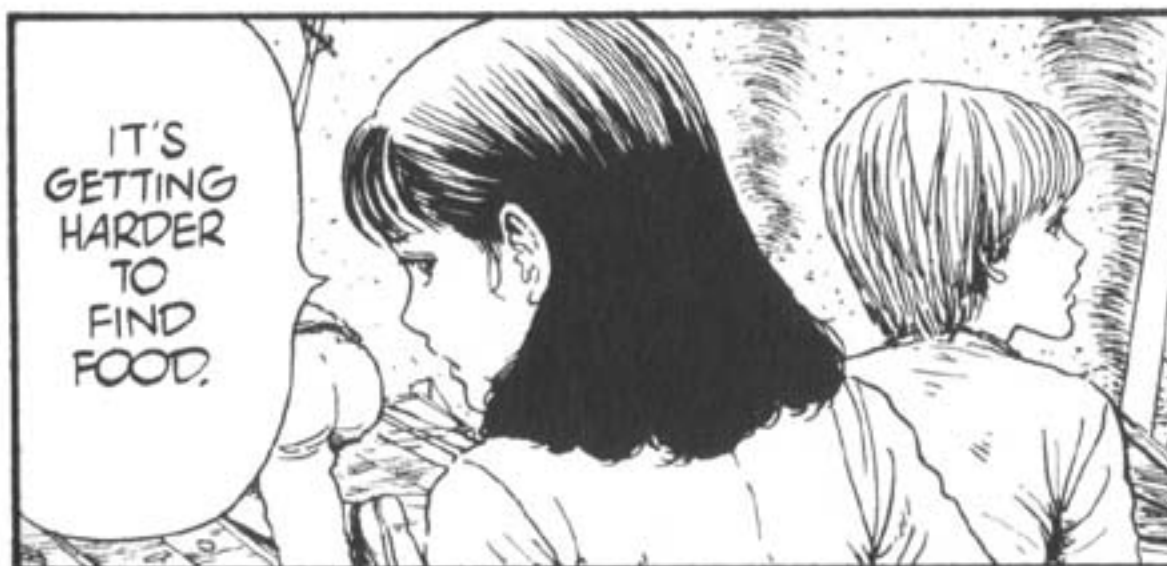
















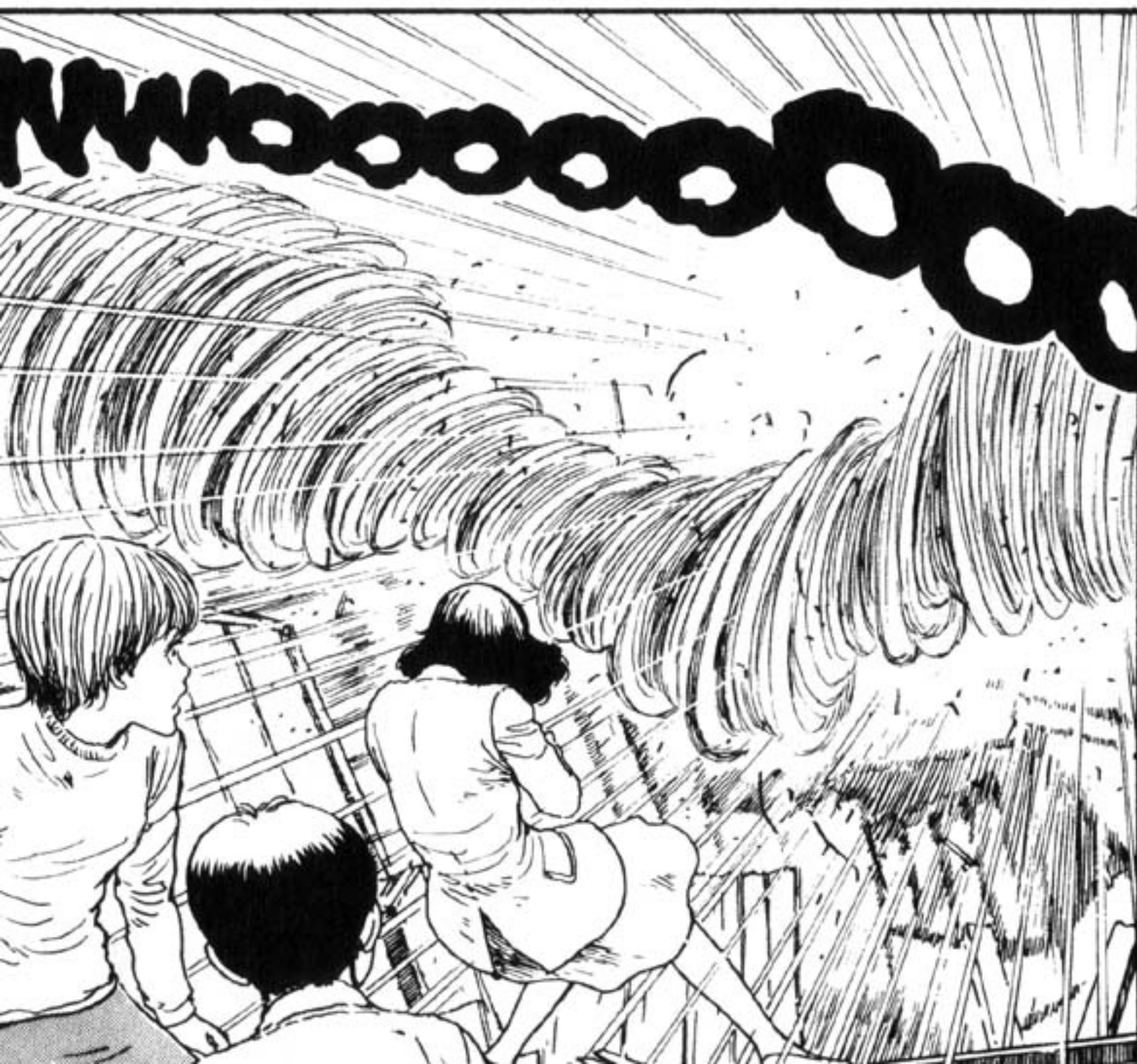
BUT WE'RE  
STARVING!  
WHILE WE'RE  
SNEAKING  
AROUND LIKE  
SNAILS, TRYING  
NOT TO MAKE  
ANY WHIRL-  
WINDS...

THEY'RE  
DOING  
WHATEVER  
THEY  
WANT!



SHUT  
UP,  
MITSUO!

KEEP  
QUIET  
OR  
YOU'LL  
MAKE A  
TORNADO!



CHIE...?!





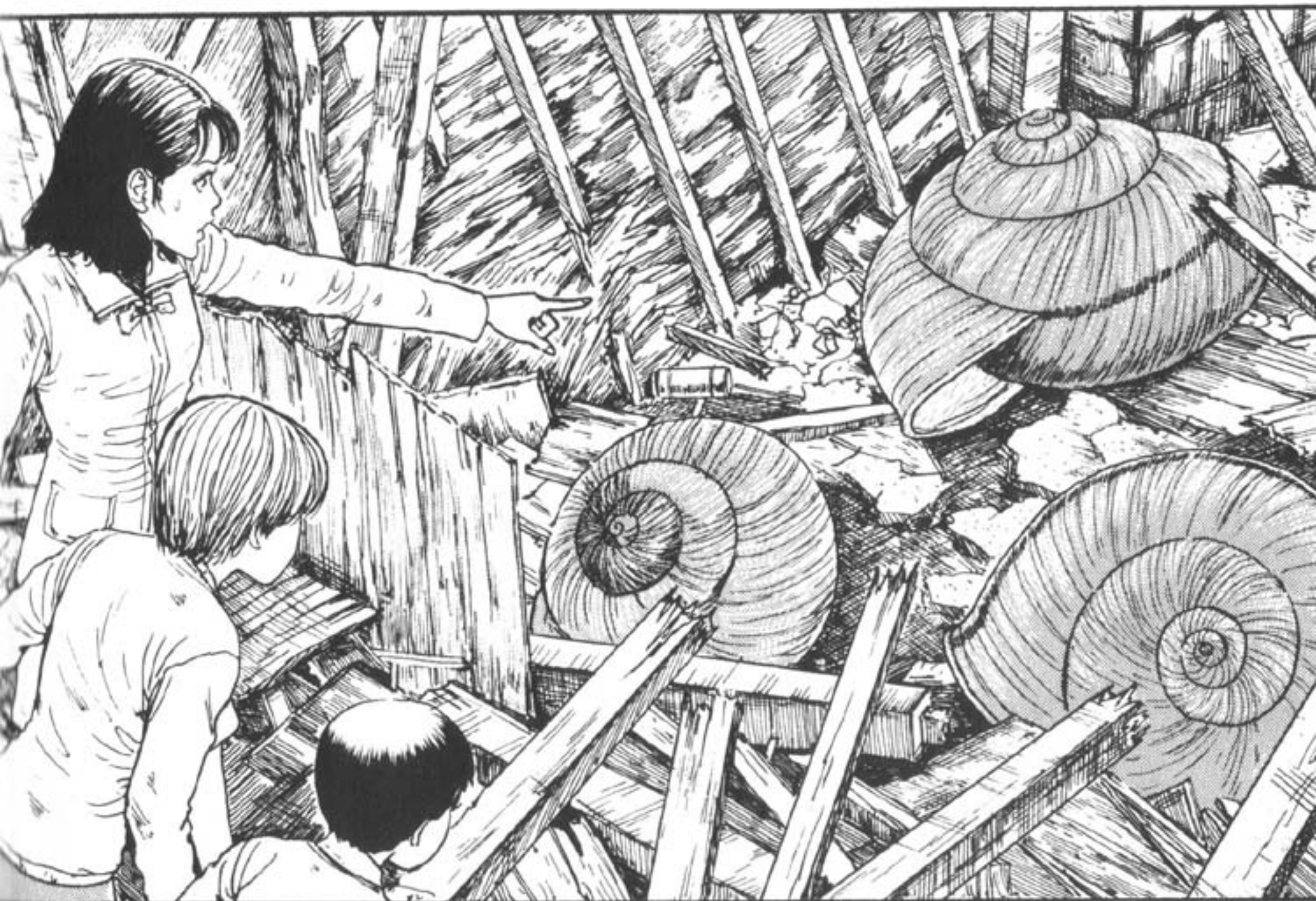
CHIE, I  
KNOW YOU  
HAVEN'T  
BEEN HERE  
LONG...

BUT  
YOU'VE  
**GOT** TO  
BE QUIET...  
YOU'VE  
**GOT** TO...

I-I'M  
SORRY...  
BUT...



LOOK  
OVER  
THERE!



Oh,  
MY...

THAT'S  
...



WHAT  
ARE  
THEY?

I  
SWEAR  
I  
SAW  
THEM  
MOV-  
ING...

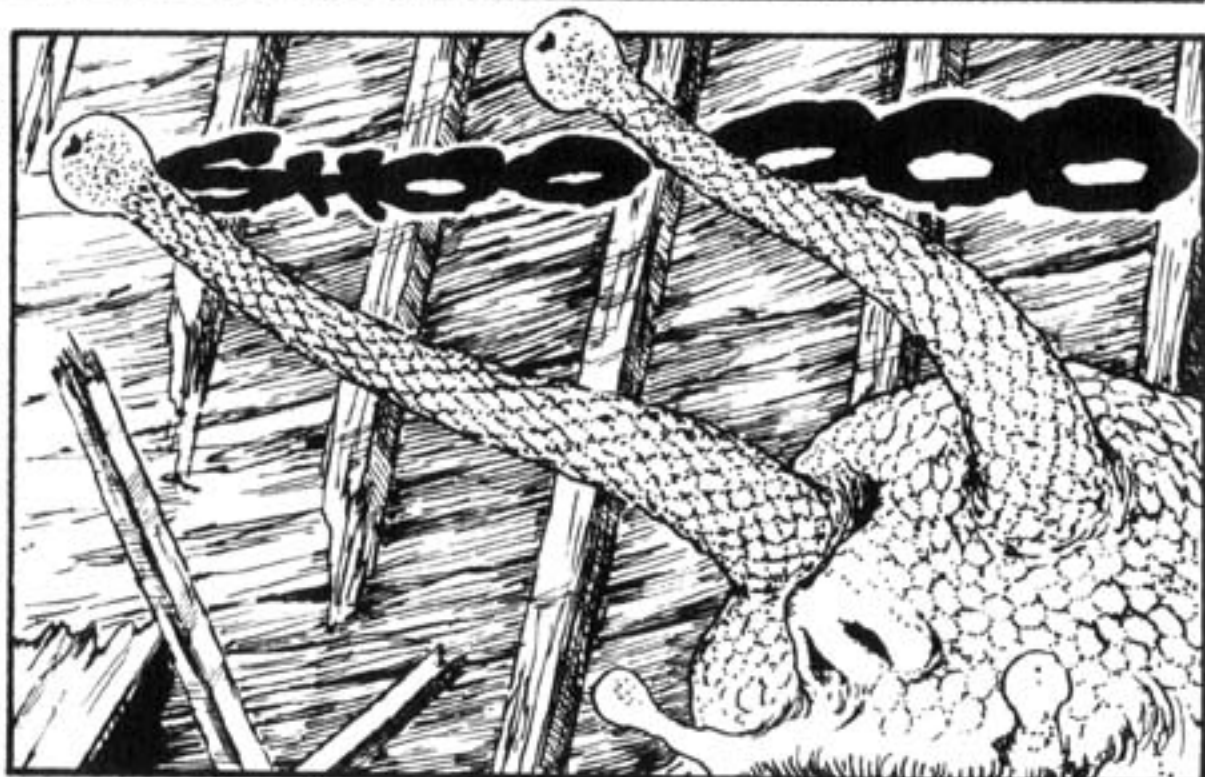
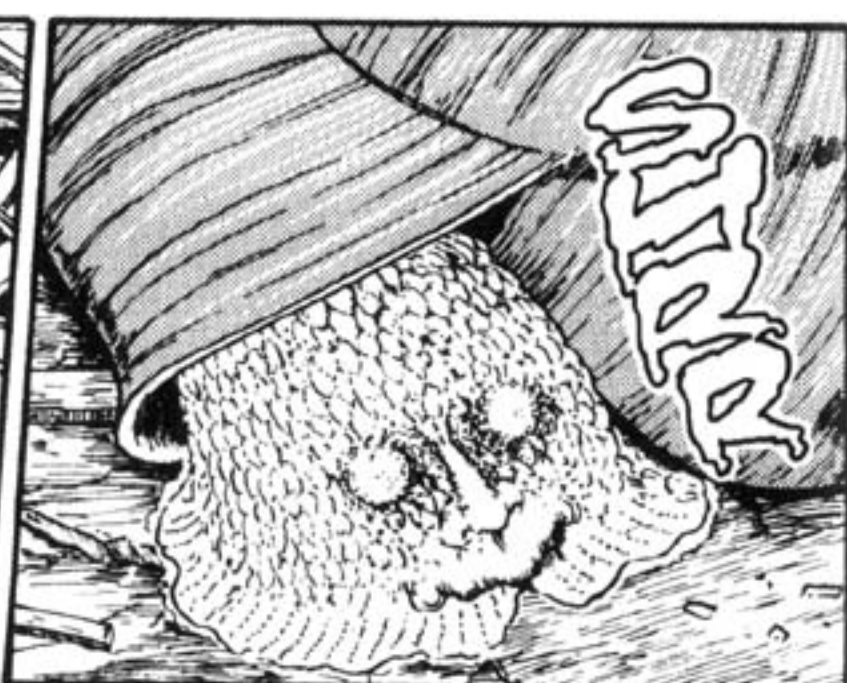


THEY'RE  
SNAIL  
PEOPLE...





Oh,  
MY  
GOD!



THEY  
USED  
TO BE  
HUMAN.

THE  
THINGS  
THAT  
HAPPEN  
IN  
THIS  
TOWN  
TURN  
SOME  
PEOPLE  
INTO  
SNAILS.



BUT...  
IT'S BEEN  
A WHILE  
SINCE I'VE  
SEEN  
THEM.

I  
WONDER  
WHAT  
BROUGHT  
THEM  
OUT.



WHAT?









GET OUT OF HERE! THERE'S NO ROOM!



BUT WE WERE LIVING HERE BEFORE YOU PEOPLE EVEN CAME!



KIRIE... KIRIE! COME OVER HERE!

MOM!




GOD, IT'S GETTING CROWDED...



THESE OLD SHACKS ARE THE ONLY BUILDINGS THE WHIRLWINDS CAN'T DESTROY.

AND WE CAN MOVE AND TALK NORMALLY WITHOUT BRINGING THE PLACE DOWN ON OUR HEADS.



IT MUST BE THE SAME IN THE OTHER ROW HOUSES.

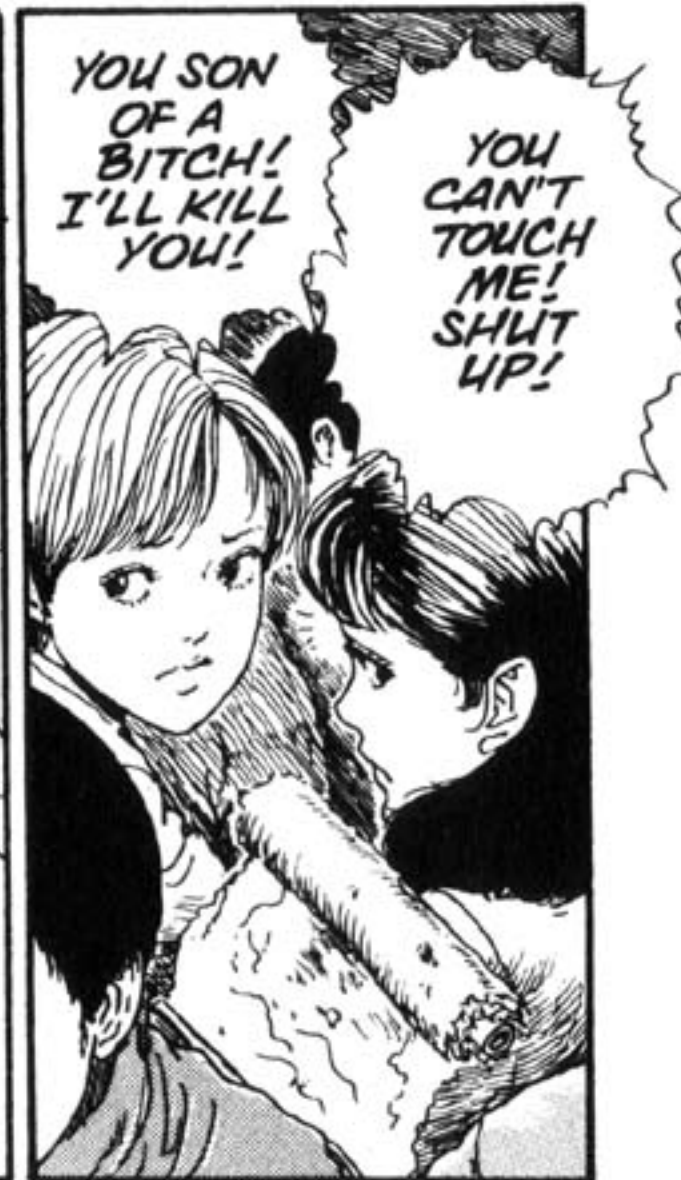
WHAT'S THIS...?



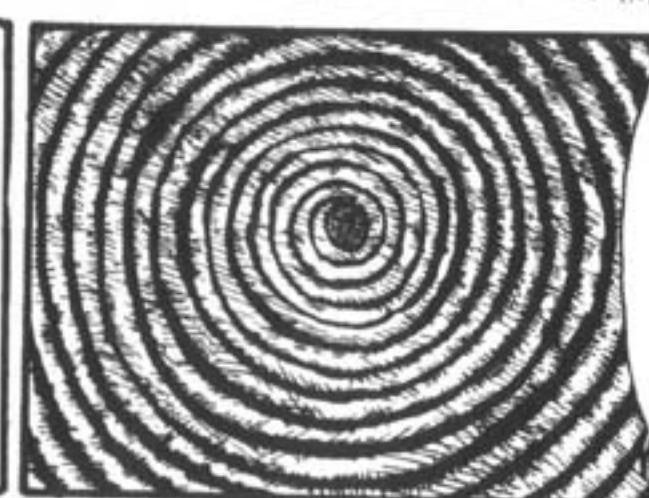
BUT HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN IT HOLD?

IF THIS GOES ON WE'LL BE PACKED LIKE SARDINES.













HEY!  
THROW  
THAT  
UP  
HERE!

I'M THE  
ONE WHO  
FOUND  
IT, YOU  
THIEVES!



...



I  
CAN'T  
TAKE  
MUCH  
MORE  
OF  
THIS...

EVERY-  
ONE'S  
ON  
EDGE.



I'M HUNGRY!  
YOU'RE FROM THAT  
RED CROSS TEAM,  
DON'T YOU HAVE  
ANY MORE  
FOOD?

I'M  
SORRY,  
WE RAN  
OUT  
YESTERDAY.



THEN WHAT  
THE HELL  
ARE YOU  
DOING HERE?  
WHY DON'T  
YOU JUST  
GET THE  
HELL OUT?

TH-  
THAT'S  
TOTALLY  
UNCALLED  
FOR!

please  
stop...



MAD...  
MAD...

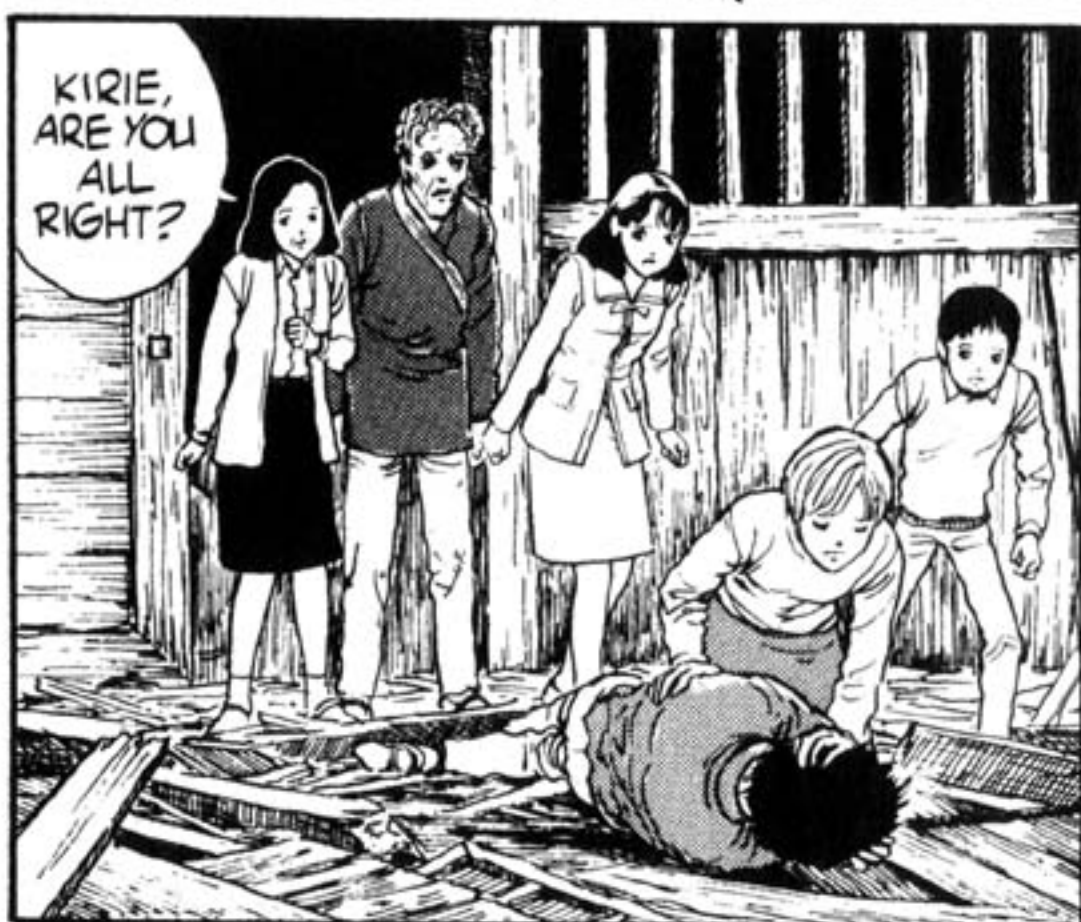
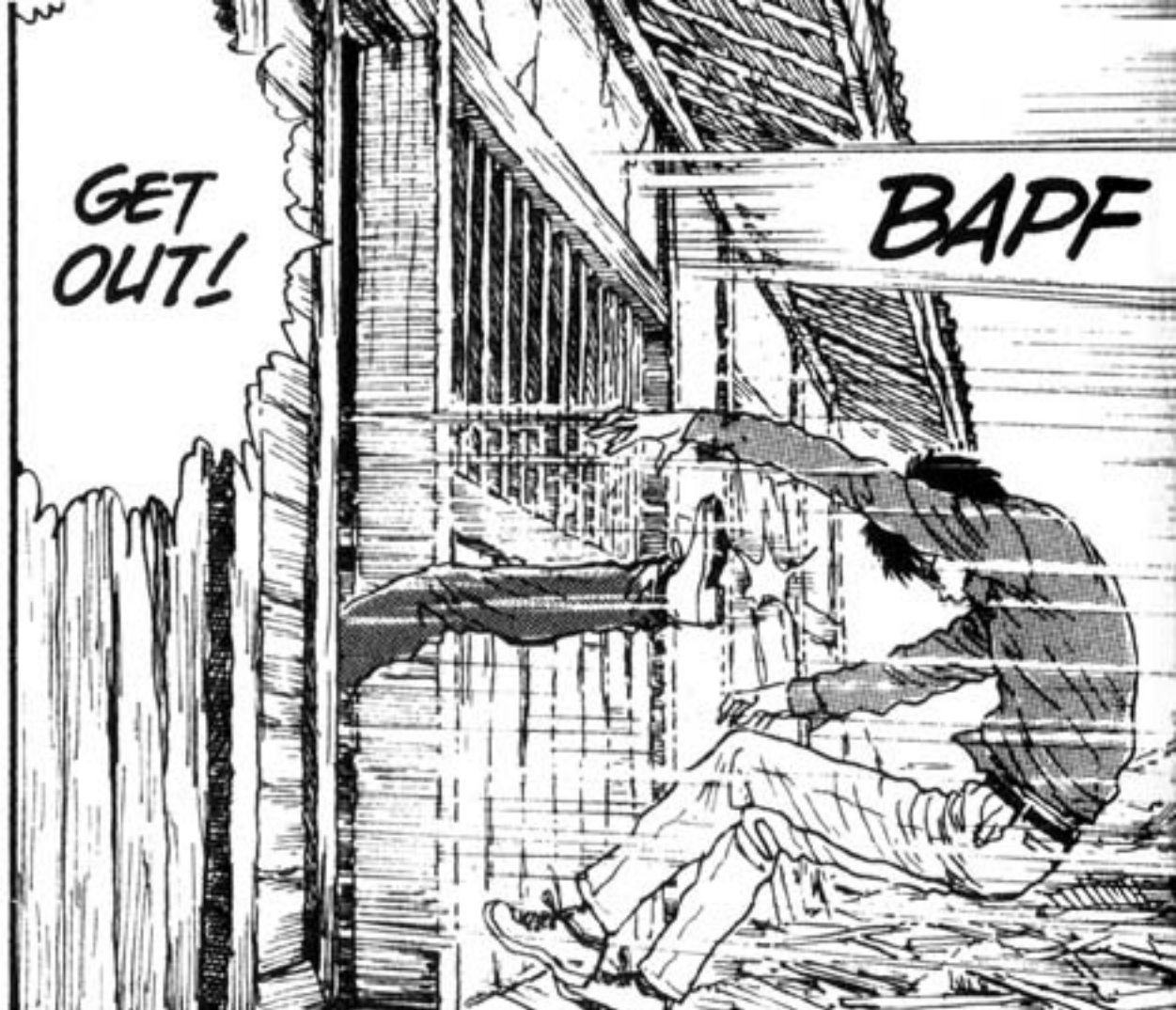
THIS  
TOWN'S  
GOING  
MAD...



YOU! ALL YOU  
DO IS MUMBLE  
TO YOURSELF!  
WELL IT'S MAKING  
ME FUCKING  
DEPRESSED!

DO  
YOU  
HEAR  
ME?

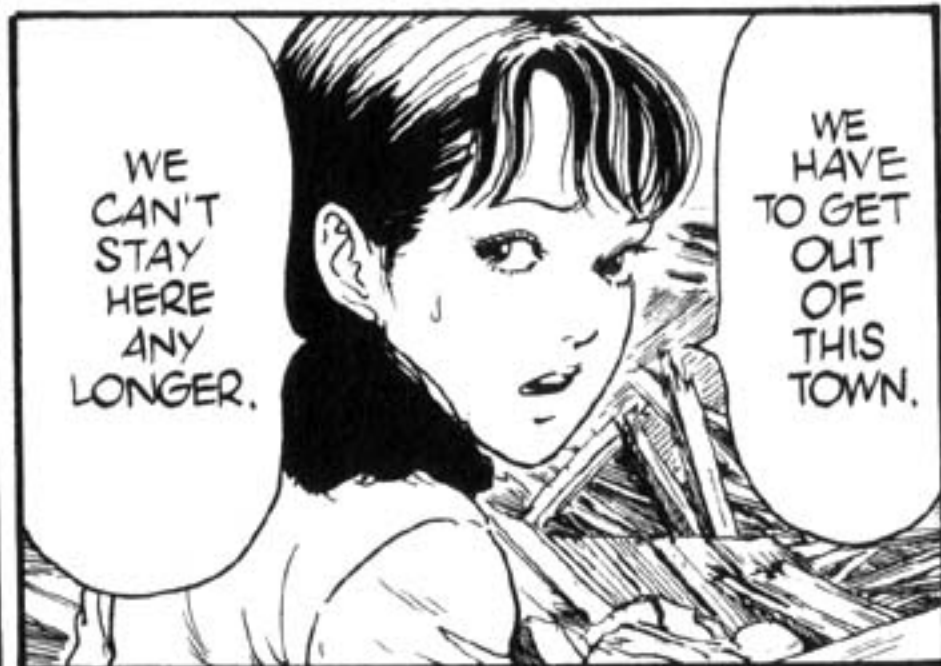








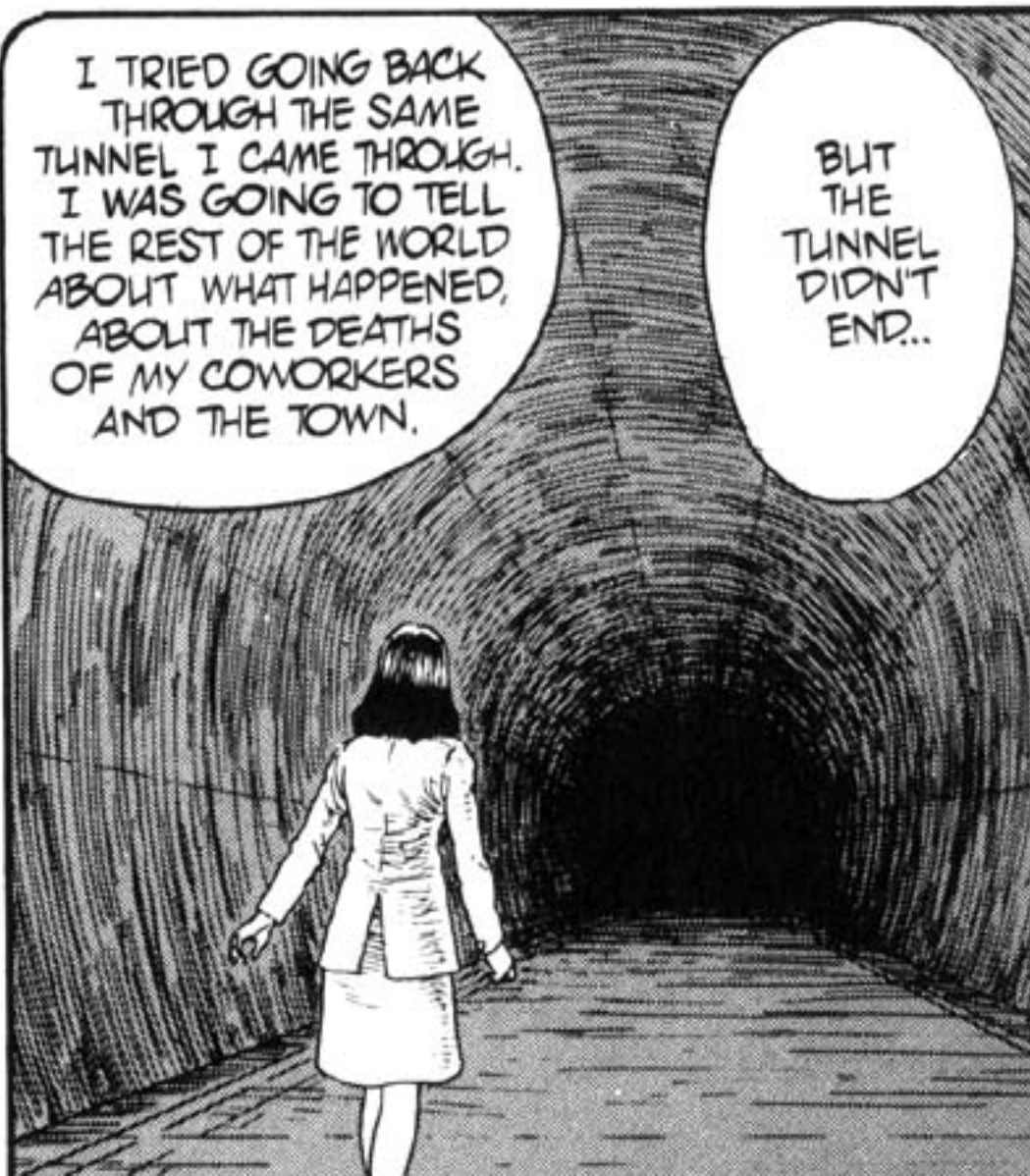
BUT IT'S  
SUPPOSED  
TO BE  
CROWDED  
**EVERY-**  
WHERE!



YOU  
TRIED  
IT  
ALREADY,  
DIDN'T  
YOU?

YES...

...JUST  
ONCE.



I TRIED GOING BACK  
THROUGH THE SAME  
TUNNEL I CAME THROUGH.  
I WAS GOING TO TELL  
THE REST OF THE WORLD  
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED,  
ABOUT THE DEATHS  
OF MY COWORKERS  
AND THE TOWN.

BUT  
THE  
TUNNEL  
DIDN'T  
END...





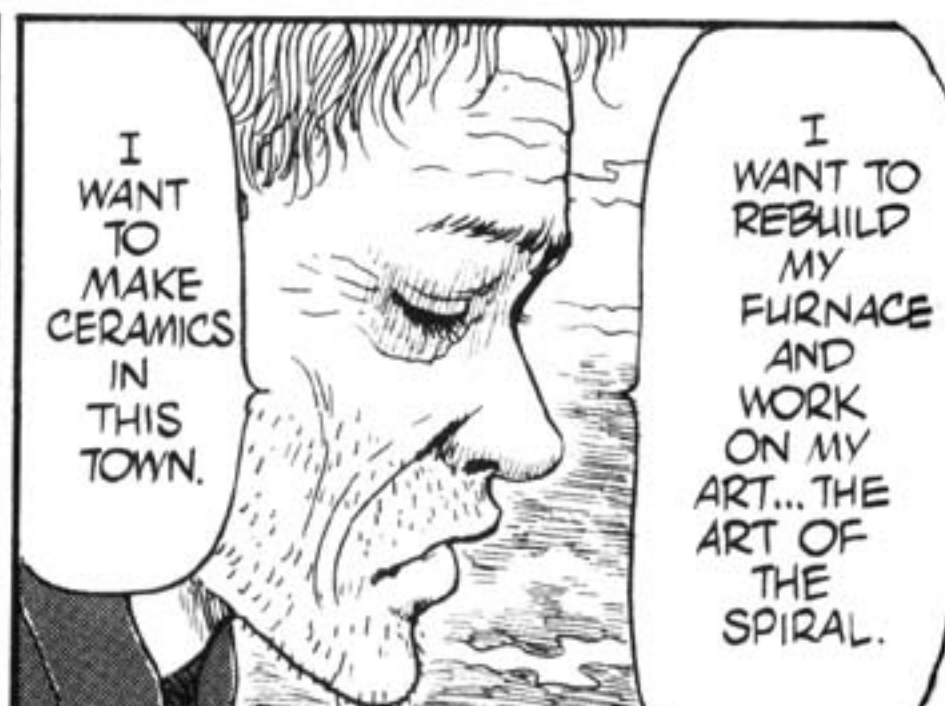
THE SPIRAL WON'T LET US GO. IT'S JUST LIKE SHUICHI SAID ALL ALONG.

BUT THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO ESCAPE!



IT'S OKAY.

I'M NOT LEAVING.



I WANT TO MAKE CERAMICS IN THIS TOWN.

I WANT TO REBUILD MY FURNACE AND WORK ON MY ART... THE ART OF THE SPIRAL.



FOR THAT, I NEED THE MUD FROM THE BOTTOM OF DRAGONFLY POND.

THE MUD FROM DRAGONFLY POND? BUT DEAR... DRAGONFLY POND'S JUST A WHIRLPOOL. YOU CAN'T DIG UP MUD THERE ANYMORE.



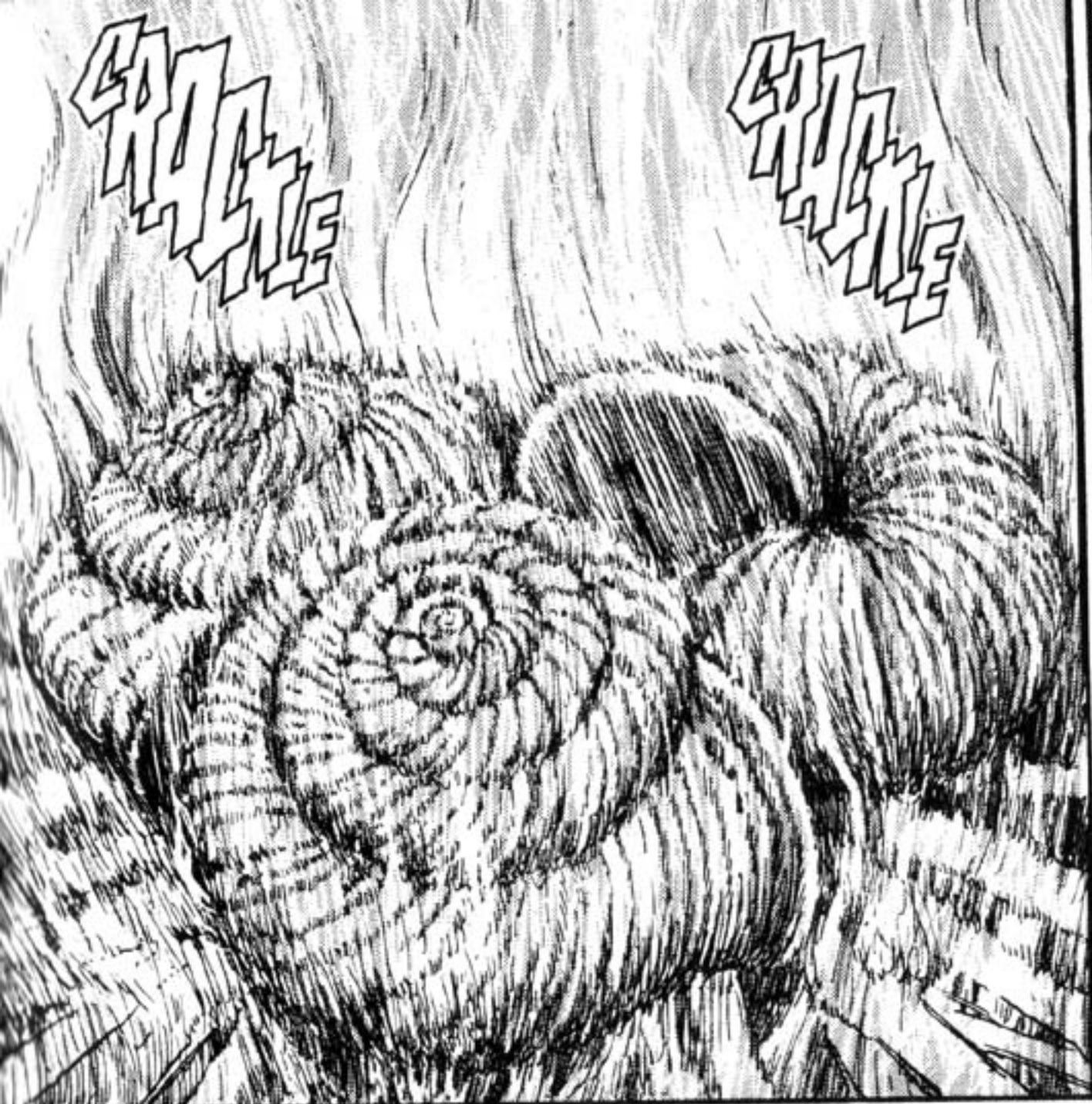




















HOW ABOUT YOU PRETTY LADIES?

THIS STUFF'S REAL GOOD. KEEPS YOU MOVING. JUST THINK OF IT AS ESCARGOT.



BUT THAT'S NOT ESCARGOT ... THEY'RE HUMAN...



DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

WHY DON'T YOU GIRLS STAY HERE, AND YOU CAN EAT LIKE THIS EVERY NIGHT.



WE'RE NOT JOINING YOUR GANG.



GANG?



COME ON. WE'LL TEACH YOU TO FLY. REMEMBER THOSE LITTLE KIDS WHO DID IT FIRST?

"THEY'RE FLYING AROUND LIKE BUTTERFLIES!" HA HA! WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?



WE'RE MORE LIKE DRAGON-FLIES.

DRAGON-FLIES EAT MEAT.

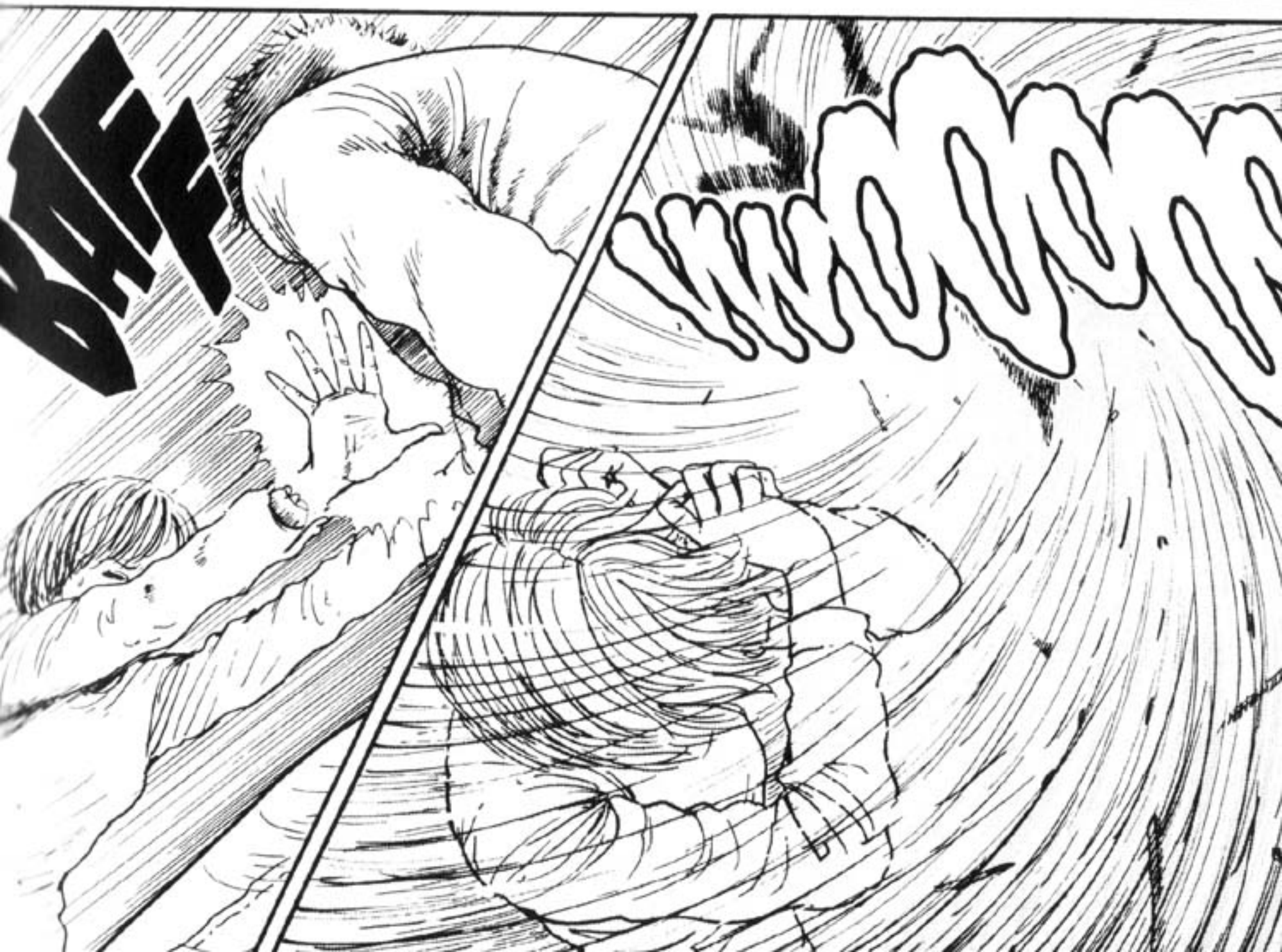
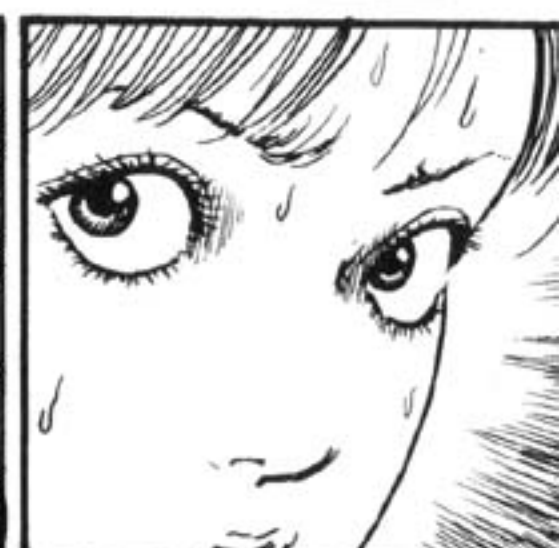
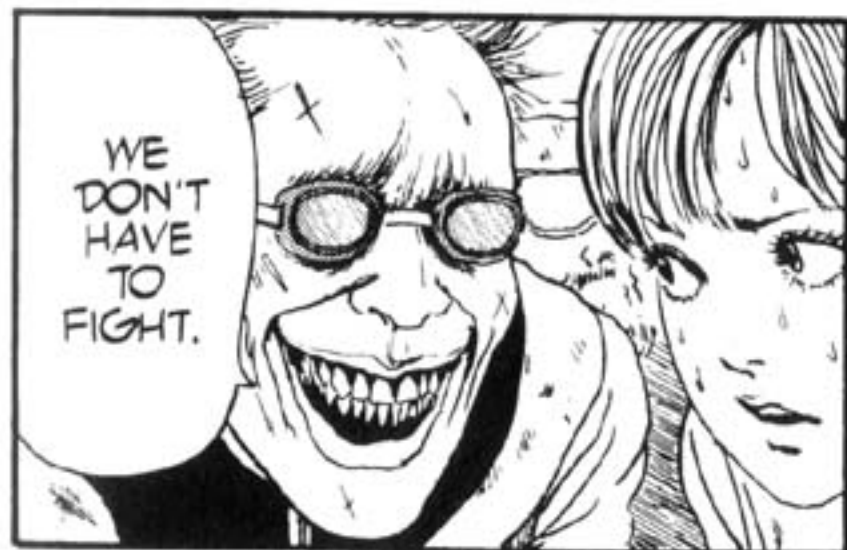


WE'LL TEACH YOU THINGS ...





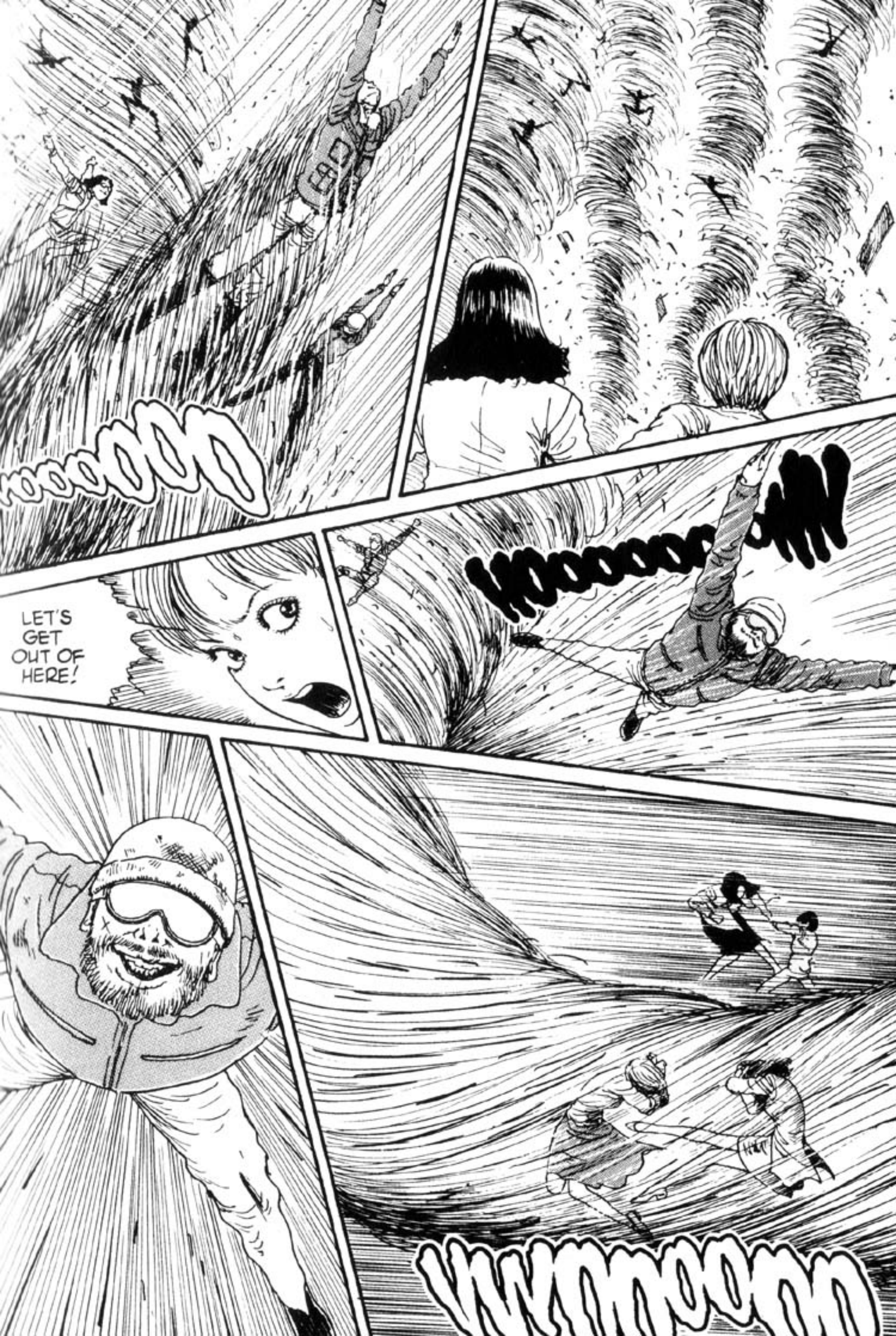












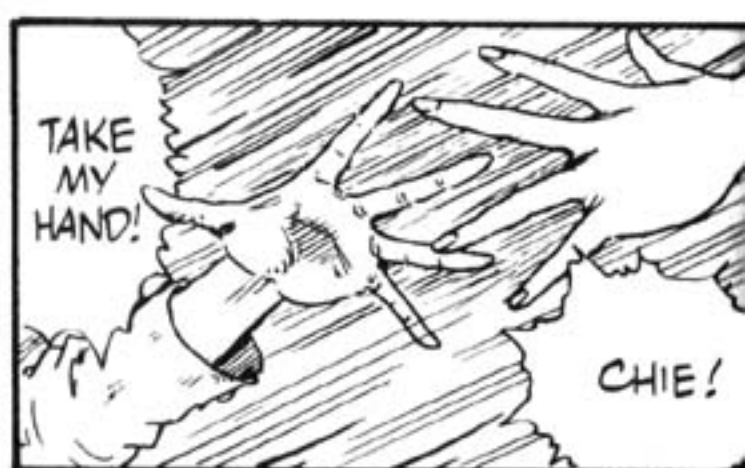
BOOOOOON

LET'S  
GET  
OUT OF  
HERE!

WAAAAA

WAAAAA





ROGER  
WILCO!





WAAAAA



YAH  
HAH  
HAH



KIRIE!

CHIE!



LOOK  
OVER  
THERE!



IT'S  
DRAGONFLY  
POND!

WE'RE  
GETTING  
CLOSER  
!

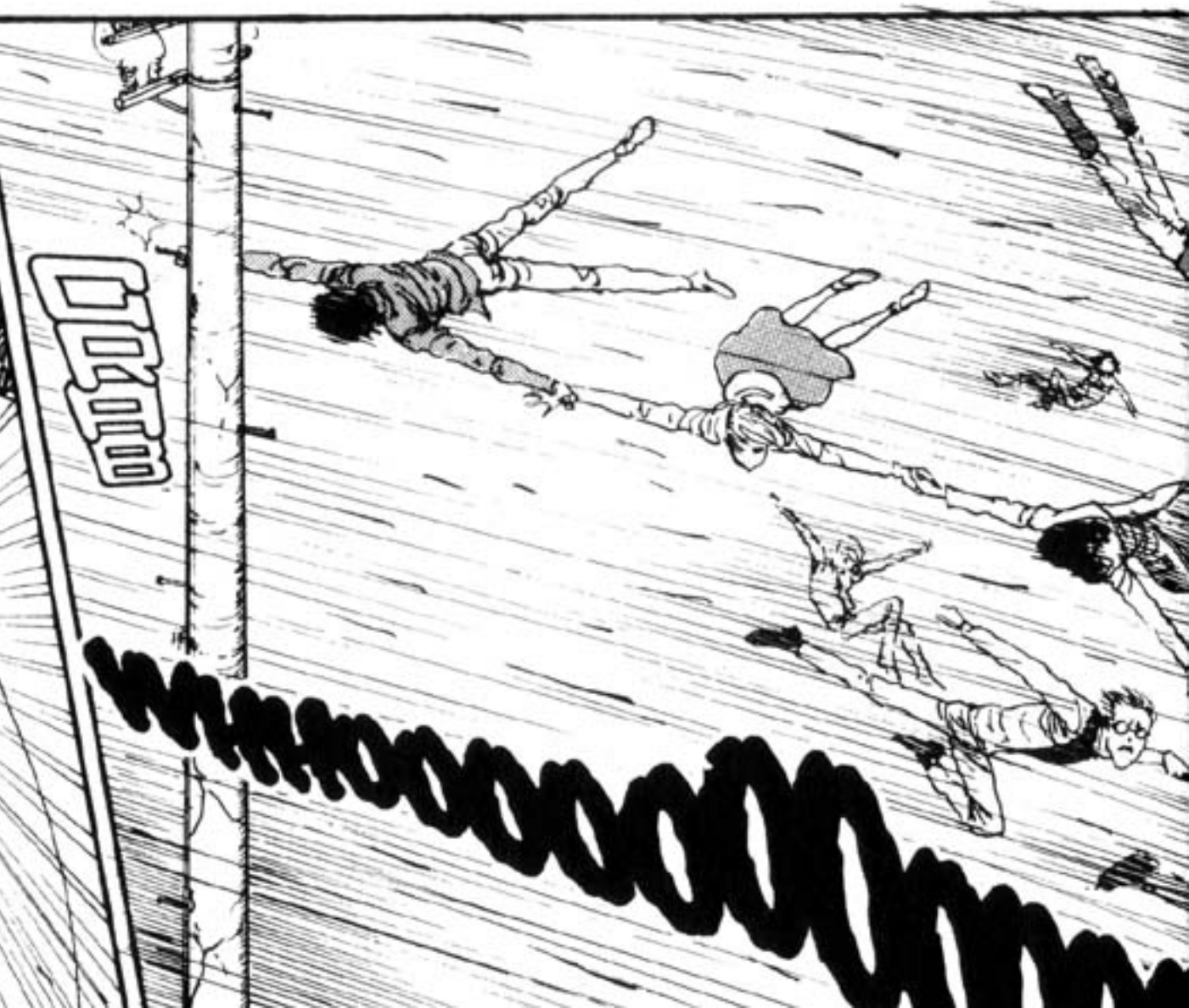


WE'RE  
BEING  
BLOWN  
IN!

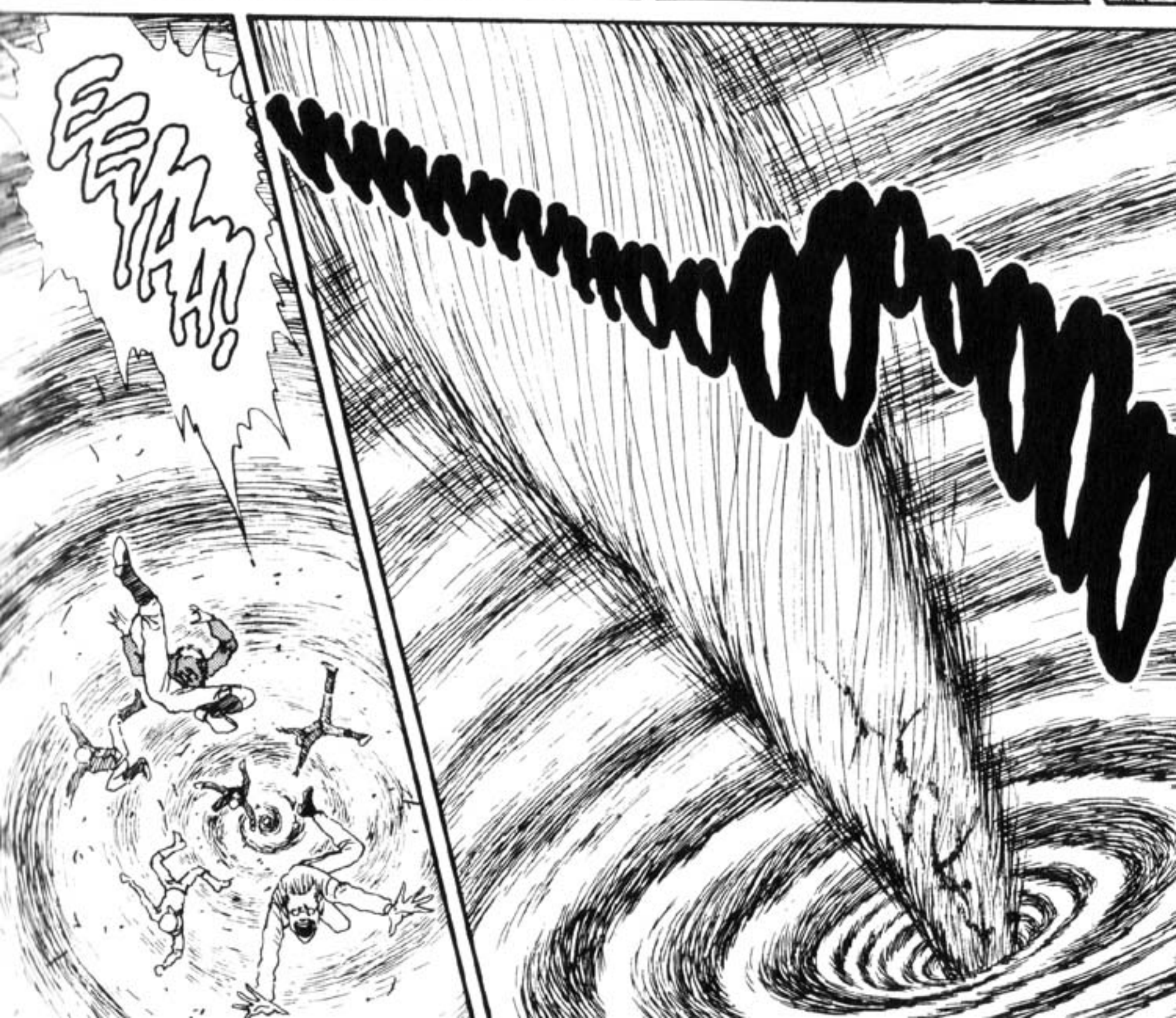




WE'LL  
BE  
SUCKED  
INTO  
DRAGONFLY  
POND!













CHAPTER

16

ERON





FROM THE  
OUTSIDE  
WORLD,  
PEOPLE  
STILL  
POURED  
INTO  
KURÖZU-  
CHO...

SLOWLY...

ONLY  
TO FIND  
THEMSELVES  
TRAPPED  
IN  
THE  
RUINS.

WALK  
SLOWLY.

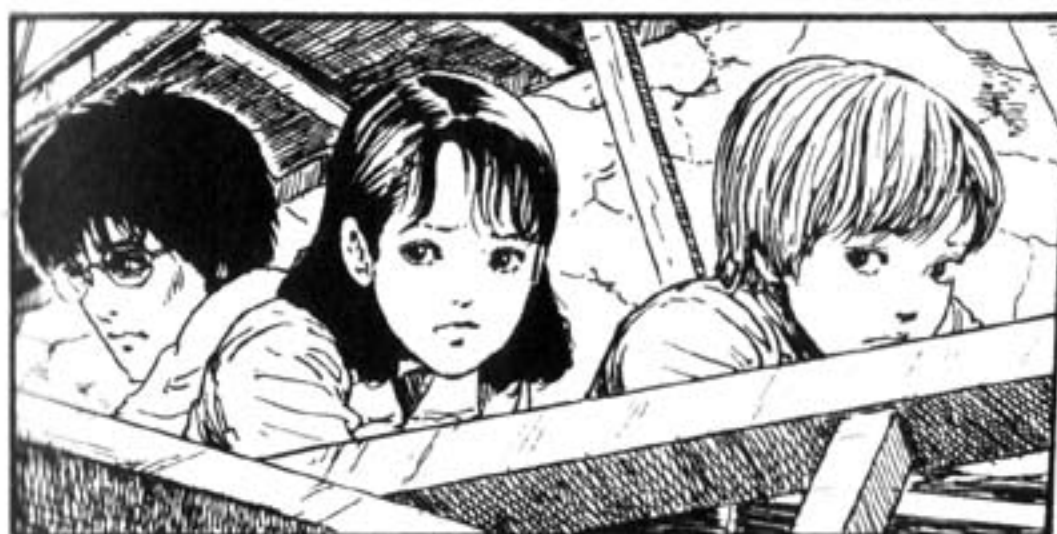
THE  
NUMBER OF  
WHIRLWINDS  
INCREASED  
RAPIDLY,  
MAKING  
THE TOWN  
ALL THE  
MORE  
DANGEROUS.

IT'S  
COMING.  
**GET  
DOWN!**

AARGH

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA









I'VE TRIED OVER  
AND OVER TO ESCAPE  
...TO JUST TURN  
AROUND AND WALK IN  
A STRAIGHT LINE...

BUT  
NOTHING  
WORKS...



THAT'S  
RIGHT.

NO  
MATTER  
WHICH  
ROAD  
YOU  
TAKE,  
YOU  
END  
UP  
BACK  
HERE.



I'M GOOD  
WITH  
DIRECTIONS.  
IT'S NOT  
NATURAL...  
IT'S AS IF  
SPACE IS  
TURNED  
INSIDE  
OUT.

TH...  
THAT'S  
TRUE.



I  
TRIED  
GOING  
THROUGH  
THE  
TUNNEL.

I  
SHOULD  
HAVE  
KNOWN  
SOMETHING  
WAS  
WRONG  
BECAUSE  
I COULDN'T  
SEE THE  
LIGHT  
AT THE  
END.



THEN  
THE TUNNEL  
STARTED  
TO TWIST  
LIKE A  
STRANGE  
SPIRAL  
GOING DOWN  
INTO THE  
DARKNESS.

I FELT  
LIKE I  
WAS GOING  
TO FALL  
**INTO IT...**  
I HAD TO  
CRAWL TO  
MAKE MY  
WAY  
BACK.



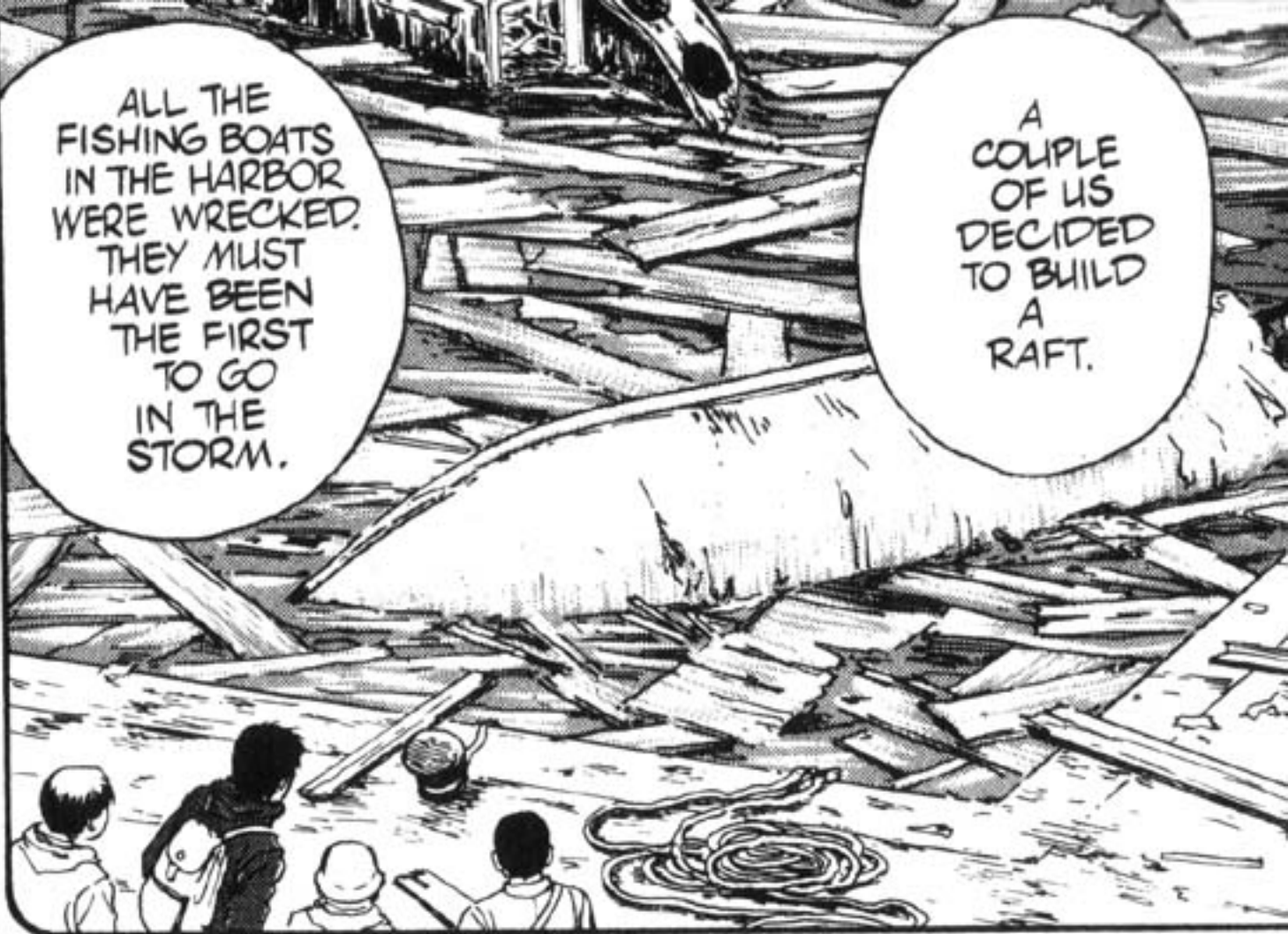
I'D BEEN  
TELLING  
MYSELF  
THAT IT WAS  
JUST ME...  
THAT  
IT WAS  
IMPOSSIBLE.



I ALSO  
TRIED TO  
ESCAPE  
BY  
SEA.



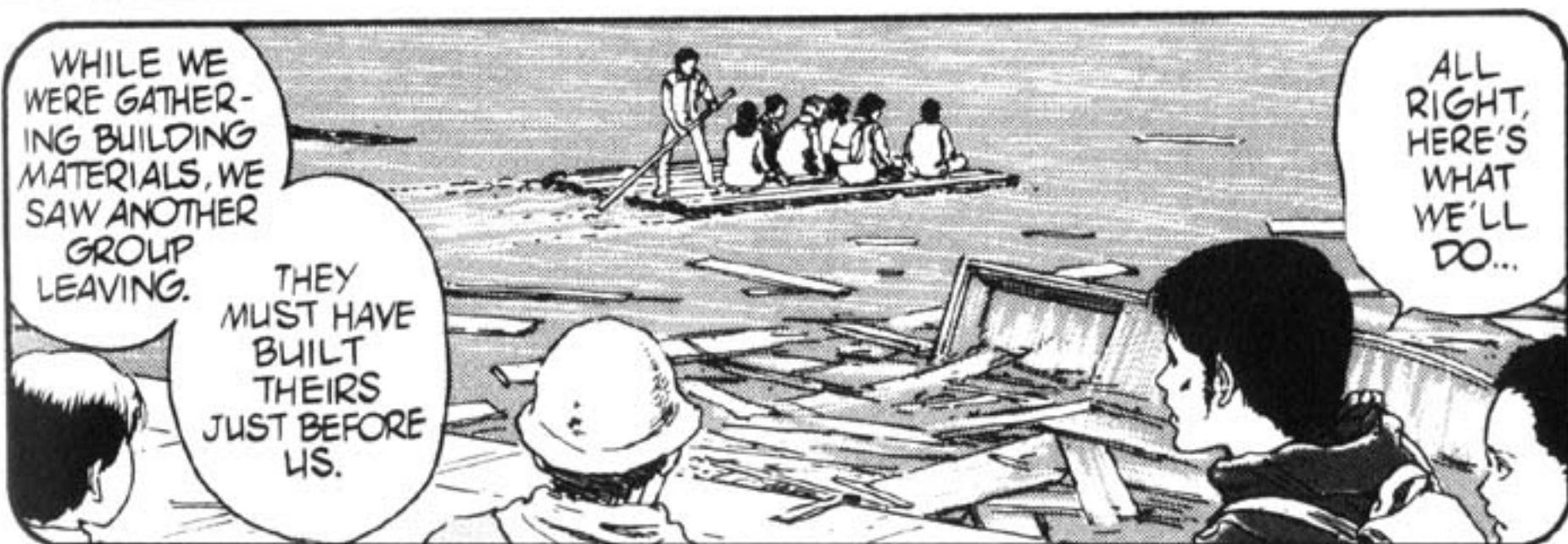
ALL THE  
FISHING BOATS  
IN THE HARBOR  
WERE WRECKED.  
THEY MUST  
HAVE BEEN  
THE FIRST  
TO GO  
IN THE  
STORM.



A  
COUPLE  
OF US  
DECIDED  
TO BUILD  
A  
RAFT.

WHILE WE  
WERE GATHER-  
ING BUILDING  
MATERIALS, WE  
SAW ANOTHER  
GROUP  
LEAVING.

THEY  
MUST HAVE  
BUILT  
THEIRS  
JUST BEFORE  
US.



ALL  
RIGHT,  
HERE'S  
WHAT  
WE'LL  
DO...

BUT  
THEN...

LOOK!



SHRRRRRR







THE SEA HAD TURNED INTO A GIGANTIC WHIRLPOOL, SWALLOWING THE RAFT RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES.



SO I DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET OUT.

BUT CONSIDERING WHAT I'VE HEARD, WE COULD BE WORSE.



YEAH... SOME PEOPLE ARE IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE. THEY'VE GONE CRAZY.



BY THE WAY, WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

ARE YOU IN ONE OF THE ROW HOUSES? IF SO, CAN YOU LET US IN? I HEAR THEY'RE THE ONLY SAFE PLACES LEFT.



NO... ALL THE ROW HOUSES ARE FULL. WE'RE STAYING UNDER A HOUSE THAT'S COLLAPSED.

RIGHT NOW WE'RE ON OUR WAY HOME.

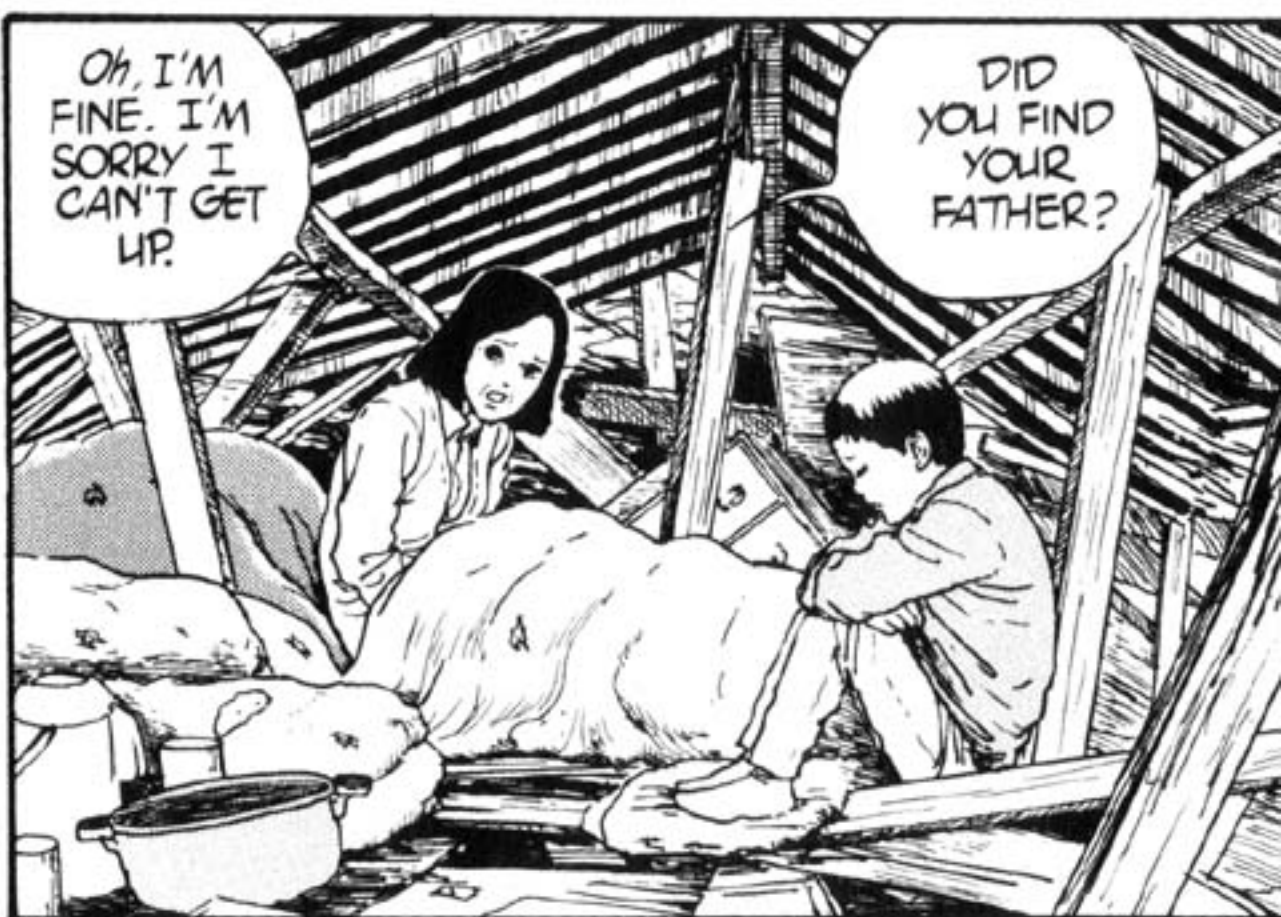




MY  
MOTHER  
WAS HIT  
BY A  
WHIRLWIND  
AND  
CAN'T  
MOVE.



MOM, ARE  
YOU ALL  
RIGHT? DOES  
IT HURT  
AGAIN?



Oh, I'M  
FINE. I'M  
SORRY I  
CAN'T GET  
UP.

DID  
YOU FIND  
YOUR  
FATHER?



NO.  
WE'VE  
LOOKED  
EVERY-  
WHERE...

BUT I  
HAVEN'T  
SEEN  
HIM...



**I KNEW  
IT! THAT  
WHIRLWIND  
JUST PICKED  
HIM UP! IT JUST  
SWALLOWED  
HIM!**

**MOM!  
MOM!  
I'M  
SURE  
HE'S  
FINE!**





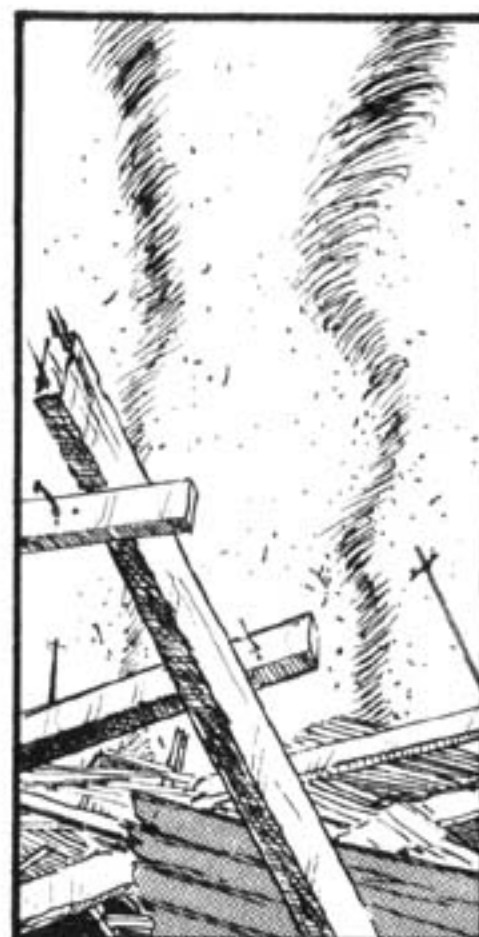
SO  
YOU  
ACTUALLY  
LIVE  
HERE?

THIS IS  
VERY  
STRUCTURALLY  
UNSTABLE.  
A WHIRL-  
WIND  
COULD  
CRUSH IT  
EASILY.



THE  
ROW  
HOUSES  
ARE  
THE  
SAFEST  
PLACE.  
THERE  
MIGHT  
BE SOME  
SPACE  
LEFT.

LET'S  
GO  
LOOK  
FOR  
ONE  
TOGETHER.



I  
WONDER  
WHY  
THESE  
ROW  
HOUSES  
ARE SO  
SAFE.

ALL THOSE  
CONCRETE  
AND STEEL  
BUILDINGS  
HAVE BEEN  
REDUCED TO  
RUBBLE, BUT  
THESE RUNDOWN  
WOODEN  
HOUSES ARE  
INTACT...?



YES,  
AND THEY  
WERE BUILT  
A LONG  
TIME  
AGO.

HOW  
MANY  
ARE  
THERE,  
ANYWAY?



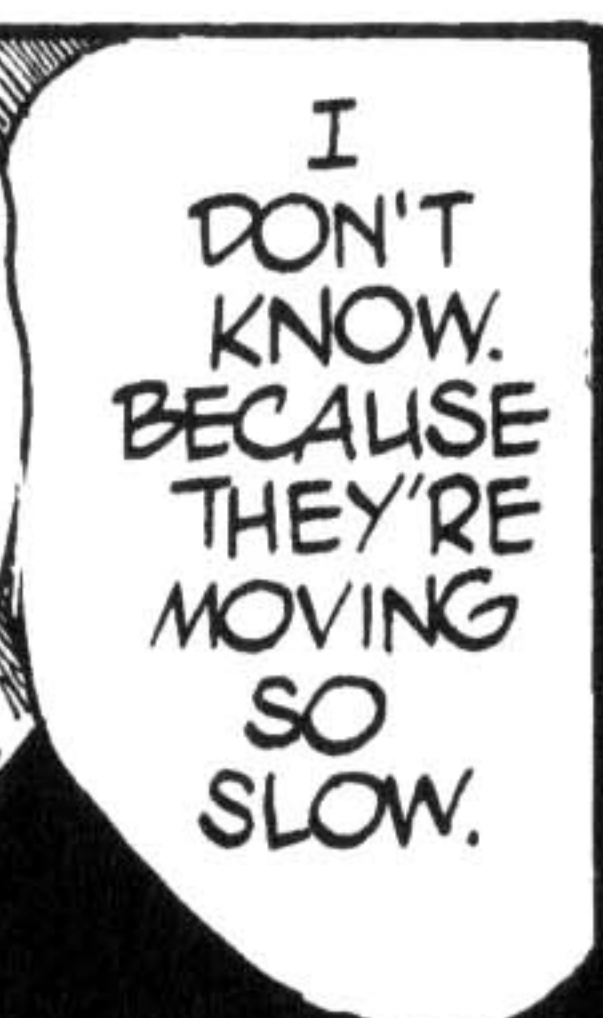
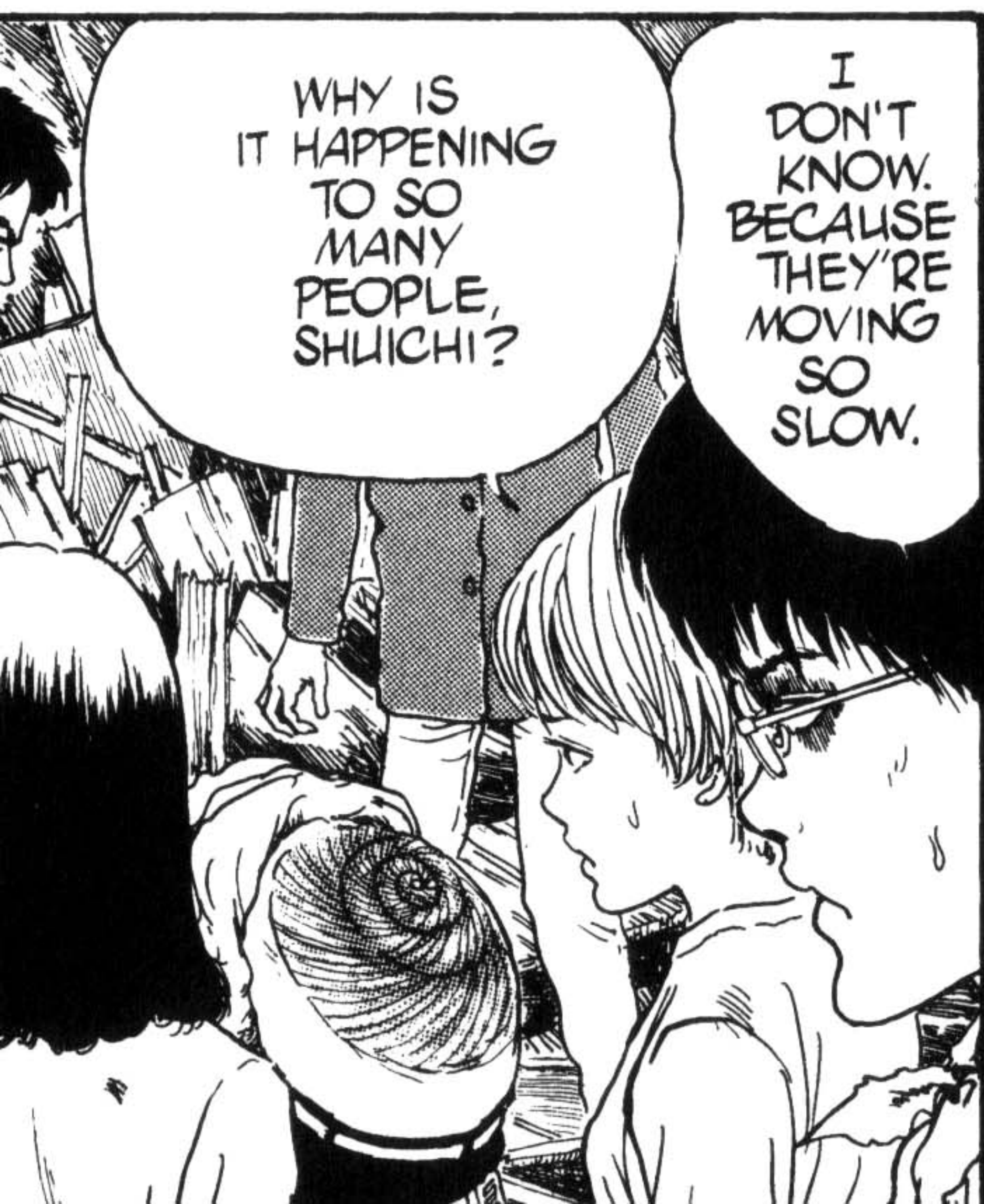
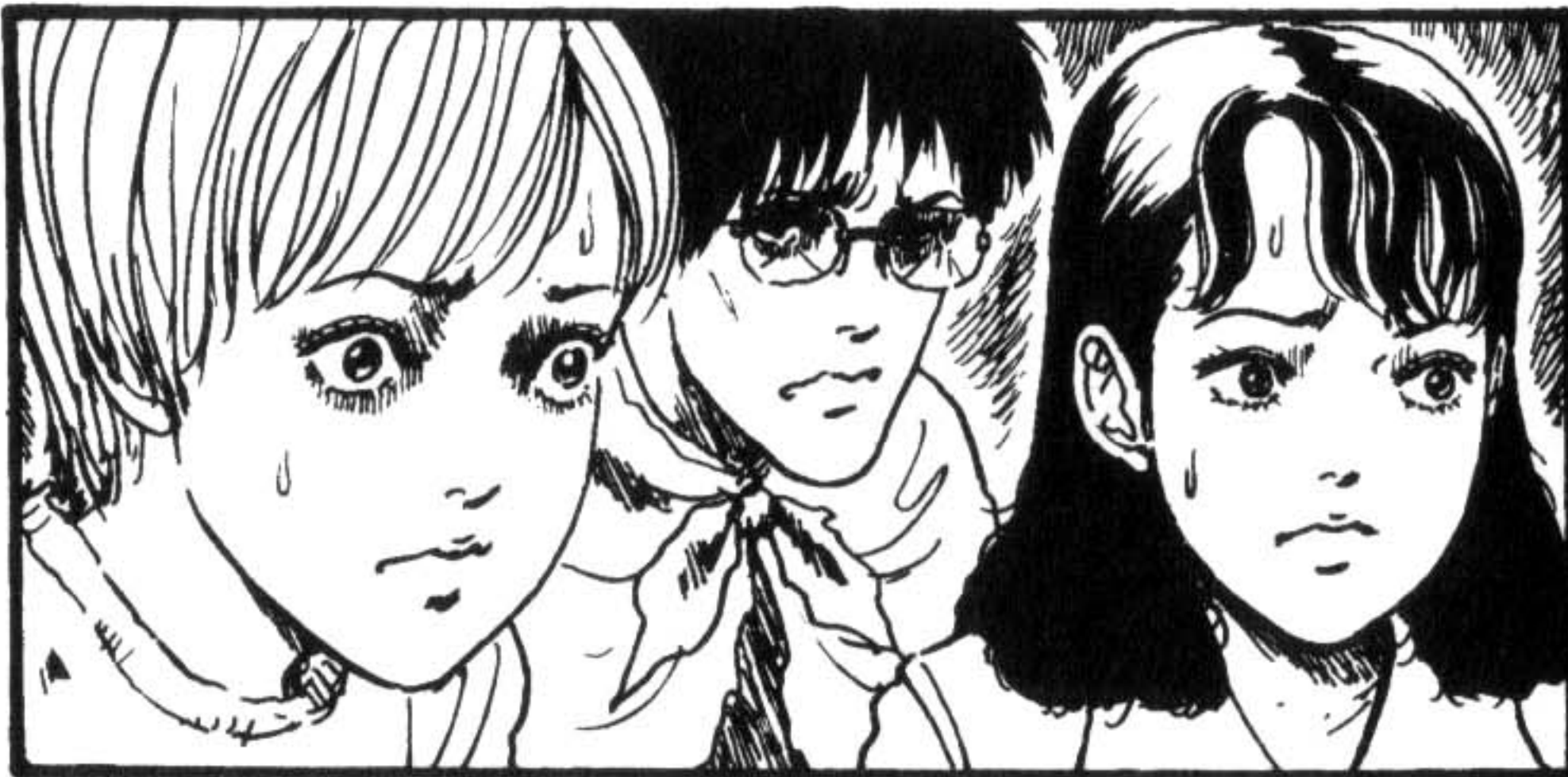
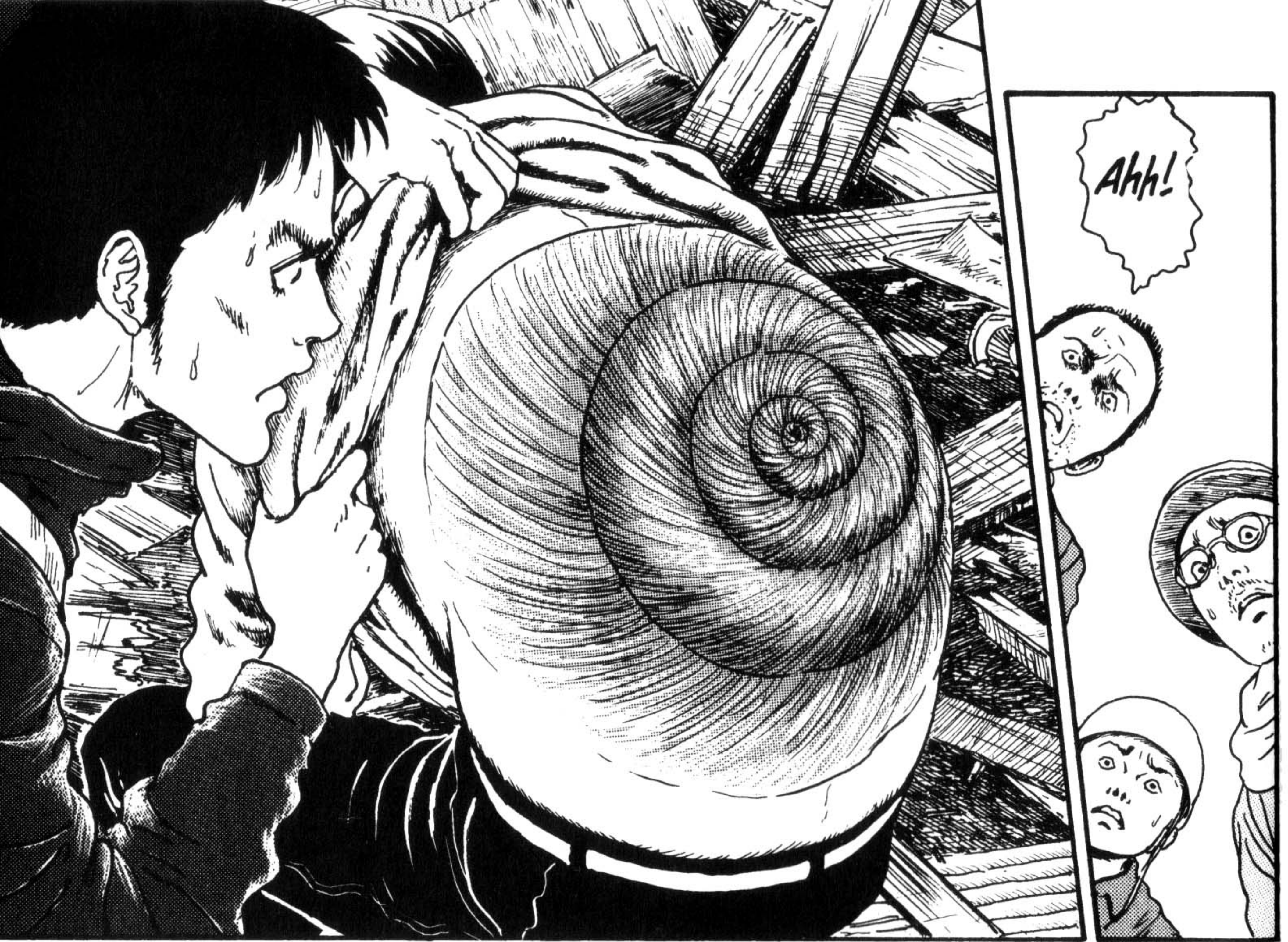
I'VE  
NEVER COUNTED.  
THERE'S SOME  
IN THE MIDDLE  
OF TOWN THAT  
WERE RENTED  
OUT, BUT THE  
ONES ON THE  
OUTSKIRTS  
ARE MORE  
RUINED.

MAYBE  
SOME OF  
THE  
OUTLYING  
HOUSES  
AREN'T  
FULL YET...  
I GUESS  
THAT'S  
WHERE WE  
SHOULD  
GO.

















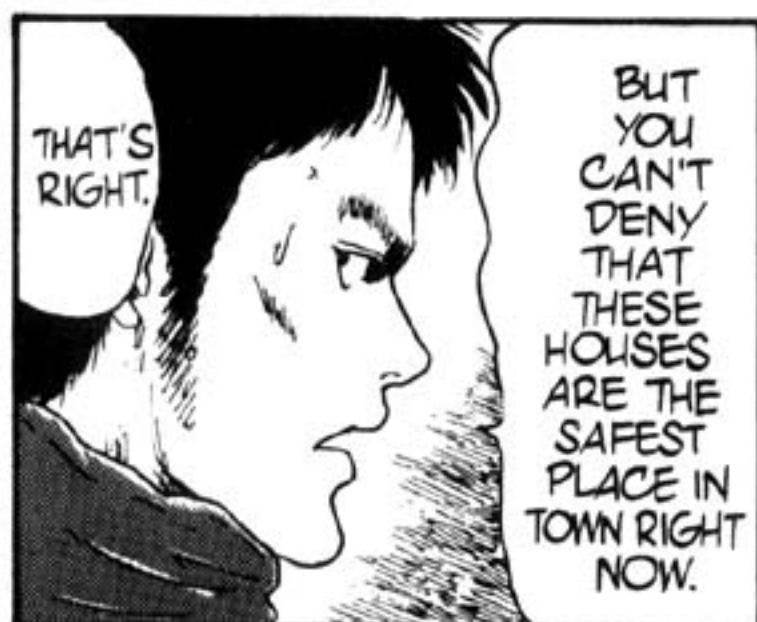
IN ANY  
CASE, WE  
HAVE TO FIND  
A ROW HOUSE  
WITH SPACE  
TO SLEEP.

THERE  
WE WON'T  
HAVE TO  
MOVE  
SO  
SLOWLY.



BUT  
HOW SAFE  
DO YOU  
THINK  
THESE  
HOUSES  
ARE?

I  
MEAN, WE  
REALLY  
DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT'S  
MAKING  
PEOPLE  
CHANGE  
INTO  
SNAILS.



THAT'S  
RIGHT.

BUT  
YOU  
CAN'T  
DENY  
THAT  
THESE  
HOUSES  
ARE THE  
SAFEST  
PLACE IN  
TOWN RIGHT  
NOW.



S-SAY, TANIZAKI...  
DO YOU THINK  
THE SPIRAL  
WILL DISAPPEAR  
AS LONG AS I'M  
INSIDE THE  
ROW HOUSE?

I  
DON'T  
KNOW,  
TOGAWA.



I-I  
DON'T  
WANT  
TO  
TURN  
INTO  
A  
SNAIL.

SOME-  
BODY  
HELP  
ME!



I  
DON'T  
WANT  
TO... I  
DON'T  
WANT  
TO!

Shh!  
LOWER  
YOUR  
VOICE!

AND  
WALK  
SOFTLY.





WE  
SHOULD  
SEE  
ONE  
SOON.



HERE  
IT IS.



LOOKS  
LIKE  
IT'S  
FULL.



PLEASE  
LET US  
IN!

NO!  
IT'S  
FULL!  
GO  
SOMEWHERE  
ELSE!



THEY'RE  
**ALL** FULL!  
IF WE STAY  
OUTSIDE WE  
MIGHT TURN INTO  
THOSE THINGS!  
YOU HAVE TO  
HELP US!

WHO  
CARES?  
**GO  
AWAY!**

















ATTACK!

NOW!



THE  
DOOR'S  
BROKEN  
DOWN!  
LET'S GO  
IN!

Huh?

KRASH

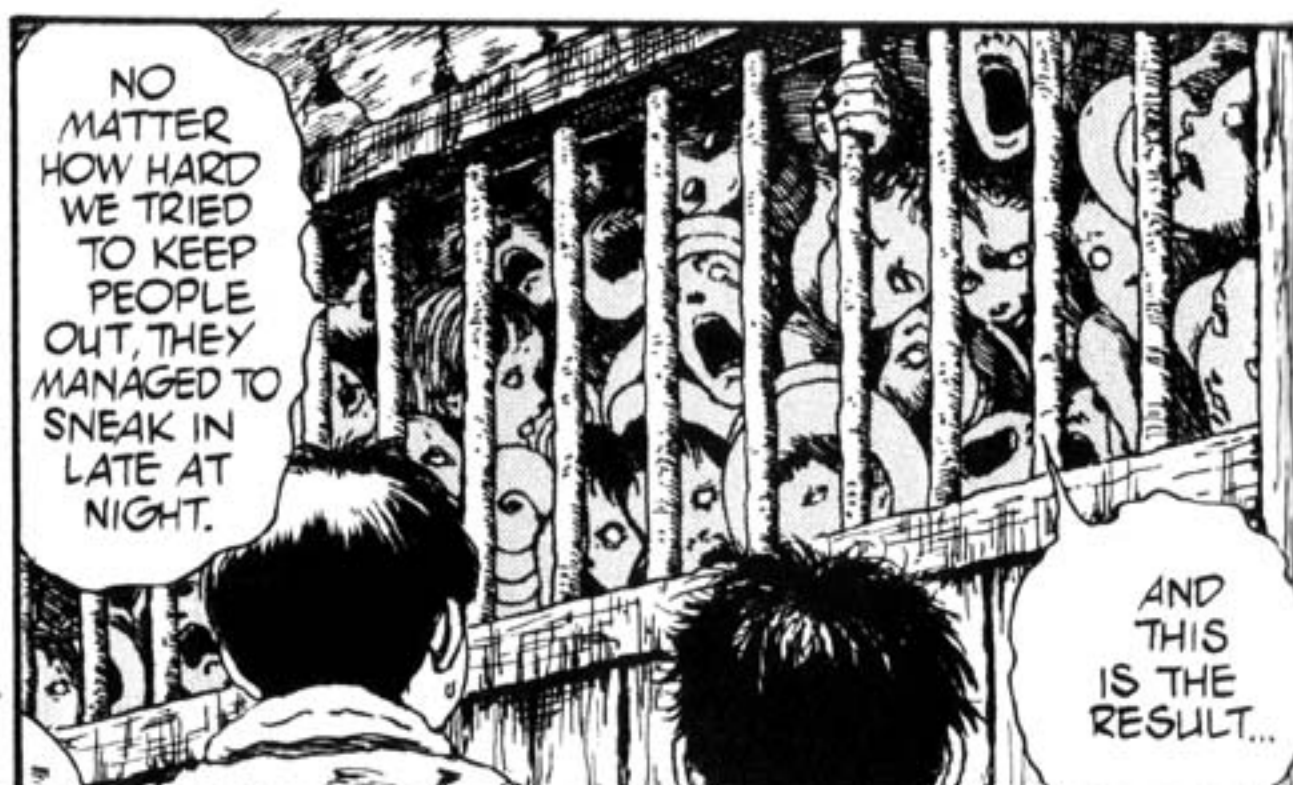




WH-  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?



I  
TOLD  
YOU IT  
WAS  
FULL.



NO  
MATTER  
HOW HARD  
WE TRIED  
TO KEEP  
PEOPLE  
OUT, THEY  
MANAGED TO  
SNEAK IN  
LATE AT  
NIGHT.

AND  
THIS  
IS THE  
RESULT...



OUR  
BODIES  
PRESSED  
TOGETHER,  
AND WE'VE  
BECOME  
TIED IN  
KNOTS...

AND  
NOW  
WE  
CAN'T  
BE SEP-  
ARATED...



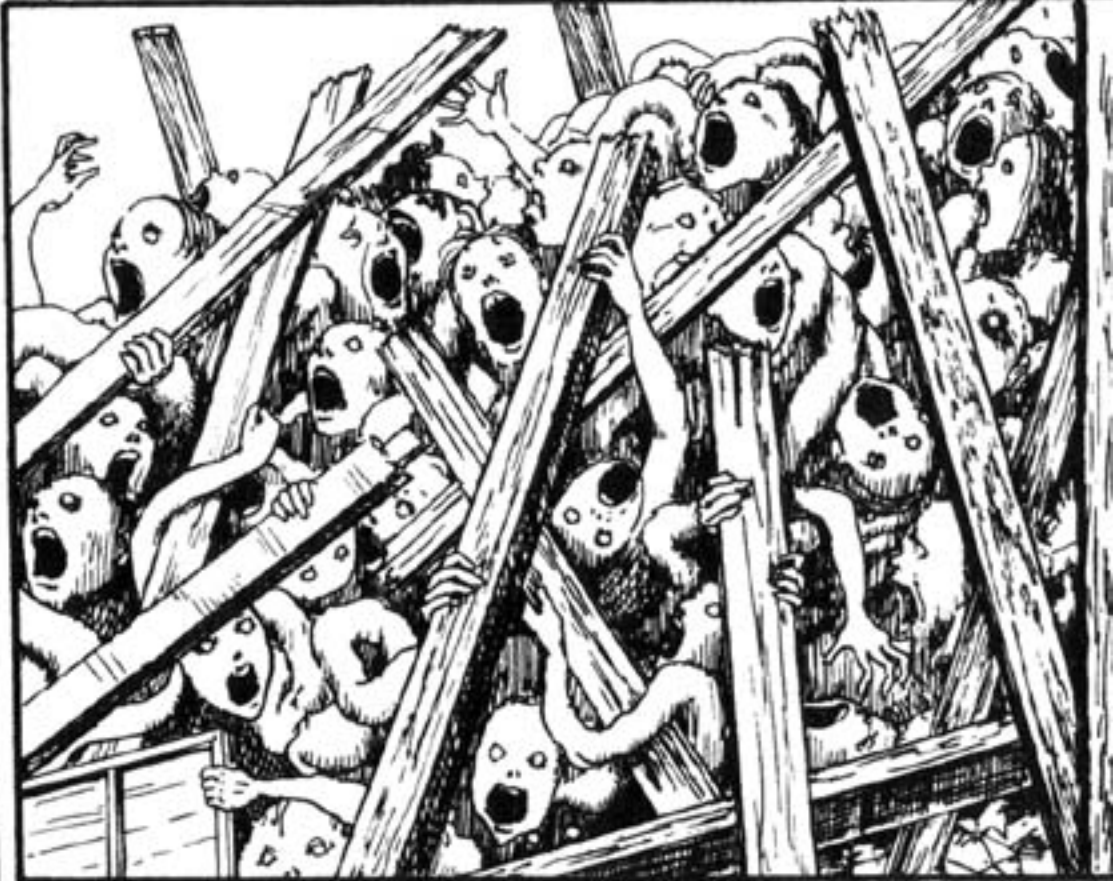




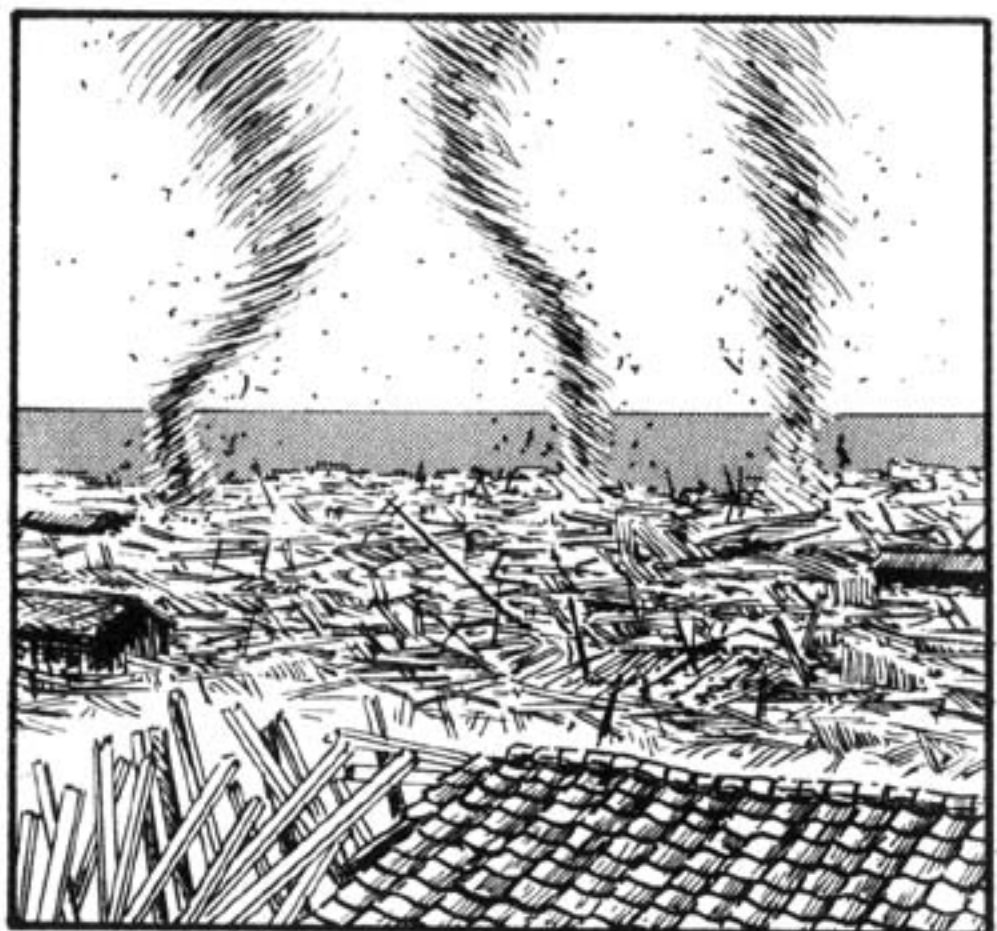




















GET  
DOWN!



THAT'S  
RIGHT!  
IT'S  
HELL  
EITHER  
WAY!

SO WHICH  
IS IT? TO  
DIE IN A  
WHIRLWIND,  
OR LIVE IN A  
ROW HOUSE?



I  
WANT  
TO  
GET  
OUT!

THAT'S  
RIGHT!  
THERE  
MUST BE  
SOME  
WAY OUT  
OF HERE!



WHAT  
IS  
IT?

THE  
SEA! A  
SHIP A  
SHIP'S  
COMING!



LOOK  
OVER  
THERE!





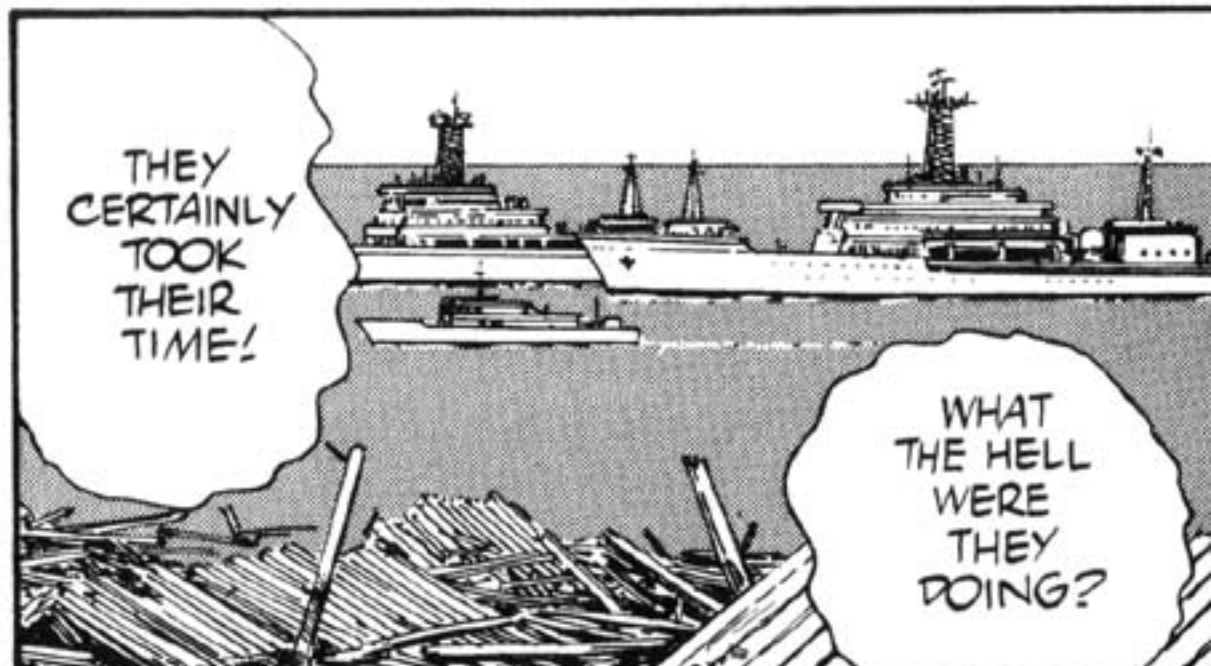
RESCUE SHIPS!

THEY'RE  
HERE  
TO SAVE  
US!!



THEY  
MUST HAVE  
BEEN  
DISPATCHED  
BY THE  
COAST  
GUARD OR  
THE SELF  
DEFENSE  
TROOPS.

REAL  
BIG  
SHIPS.



THEY  
CERTAINLY  
TOOK  
THEIR  
TIME!

WHAT  
THE HELL  
WERE  
THEY  
DOING?



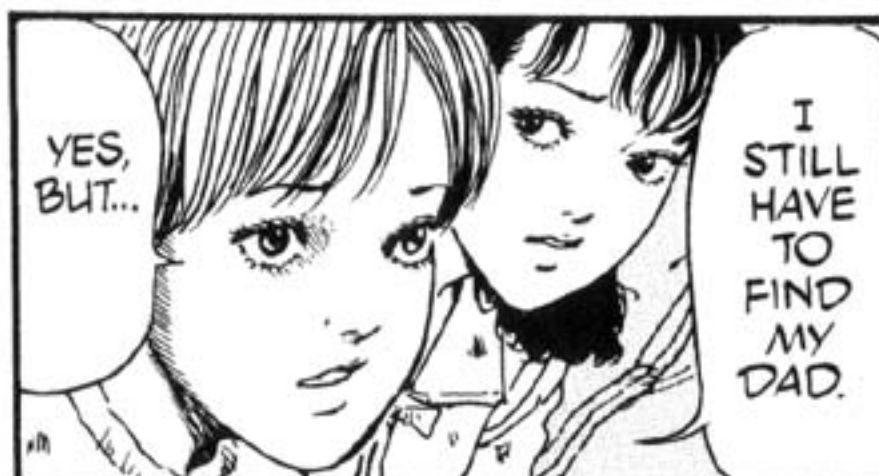
WELL,  
WE'RE  
SAFE  
NOW.

I'M  
GOING  
TO RUN ON  
BOARD AND  
NEVER  
GET OFF.



KIRIE,  
YOU LOOK  
LIKE  
YOU  
DON'T  
BELIEVE  
IT!

THEY'RE  
HERE!  
WE'LL  
HAVE  
TO  
TELL  
YOUR  
MOTHER!



YES,  
BUT...

I  
STILL  
HAVE  
TO  
FIND  
MY  
DAD.



Huh?









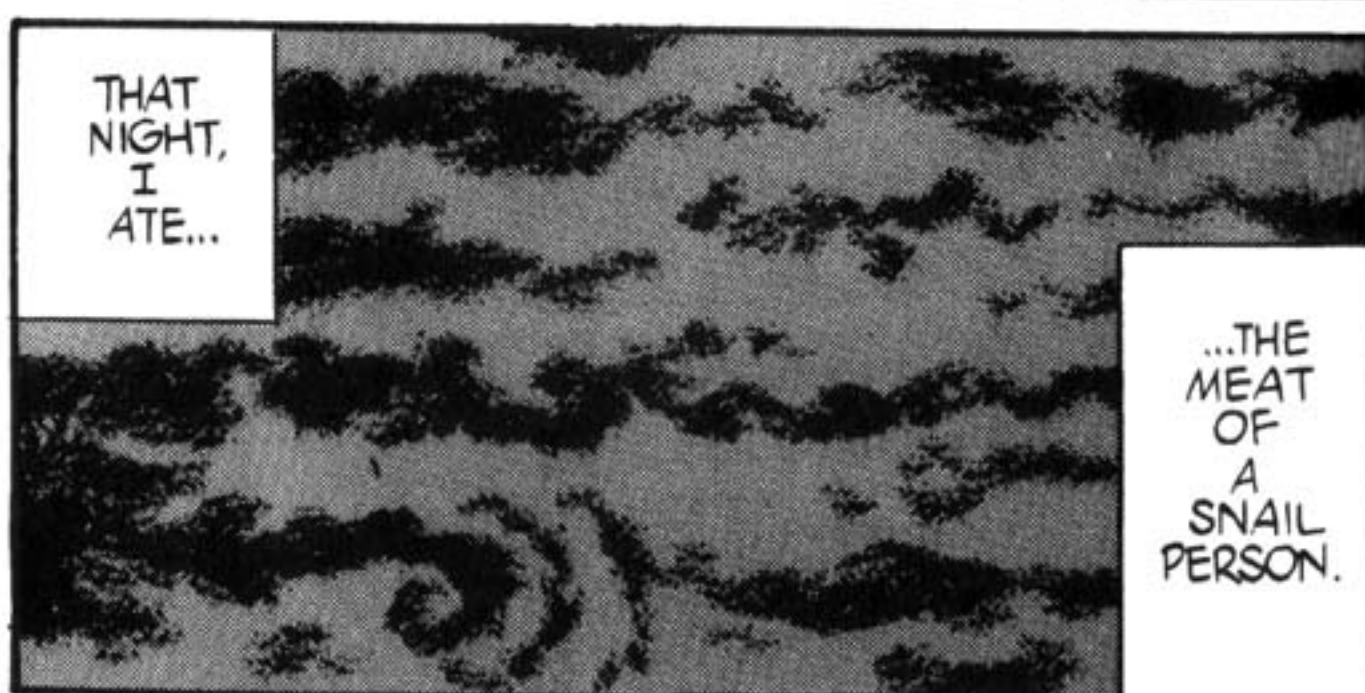
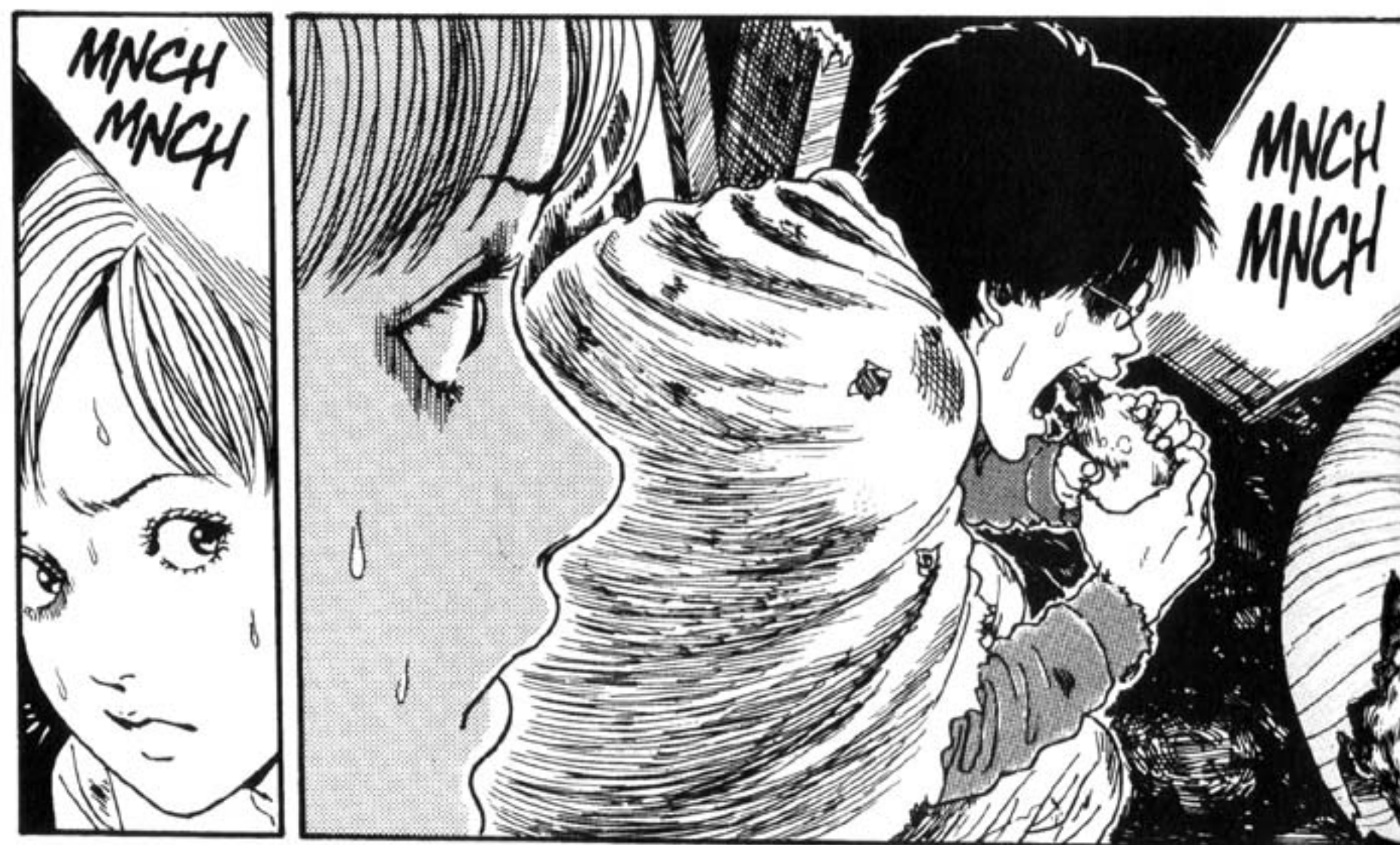
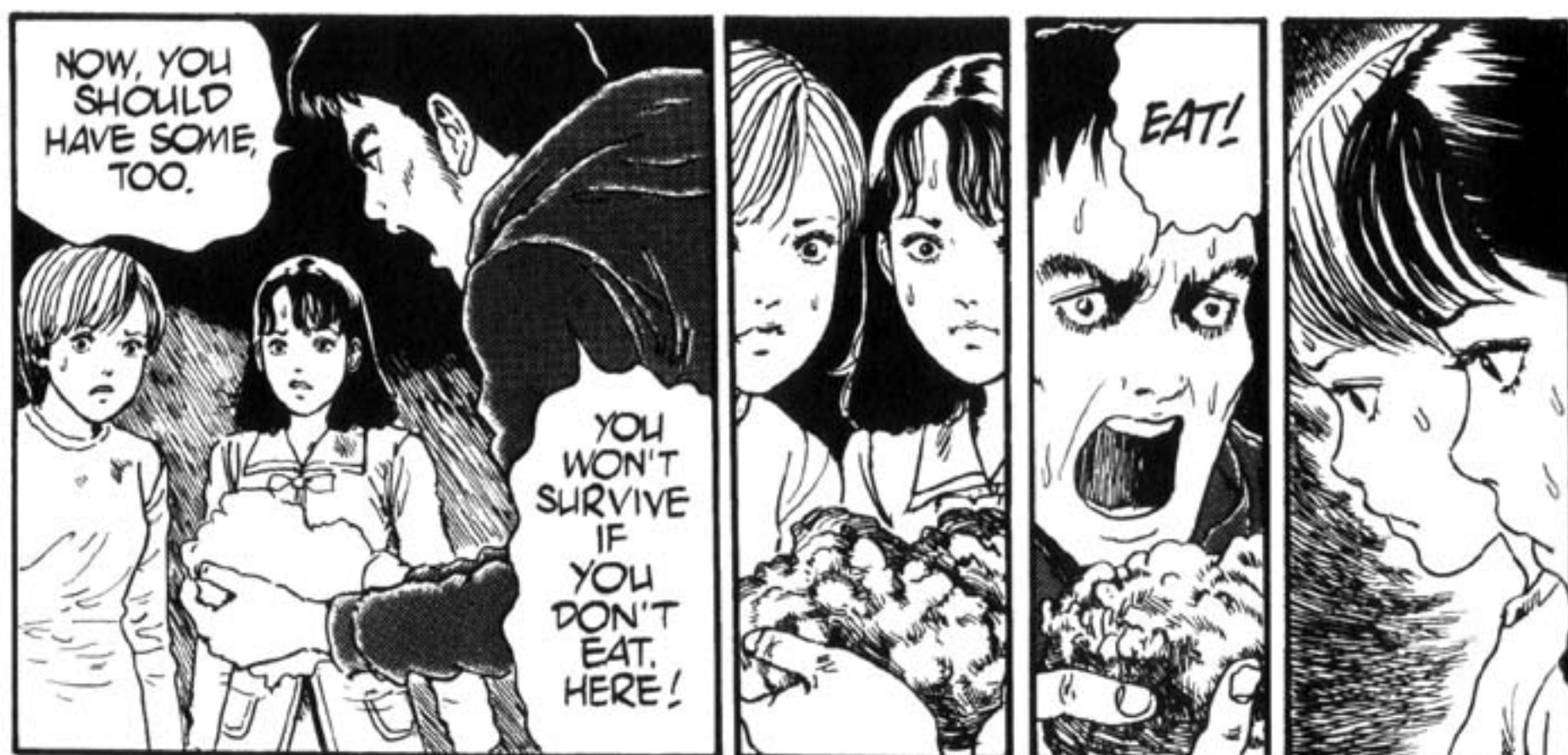














THE NEXT MORNING, WE PARTED WAYS WITH TANIZAKI'S GROUP, AND HEADED BACK TO THE SHACK WHERE MY MOTHER AND MITSUO WERE.

WE BROUGHT THE REMAINING SCRAPS OF MEAT WITH US IN AN OLD PLASTIC BAG.

Hm?

I THOUGHT IT WAS AROUND HERE.

THE SHACK IS GONE!

N-NO...

KIRIE!

KIRIE!  
I'M STUCK!

MITSUO!

I'LL GET YOU OUT!

IT WAS A WHIRLWIND, RIGHT?



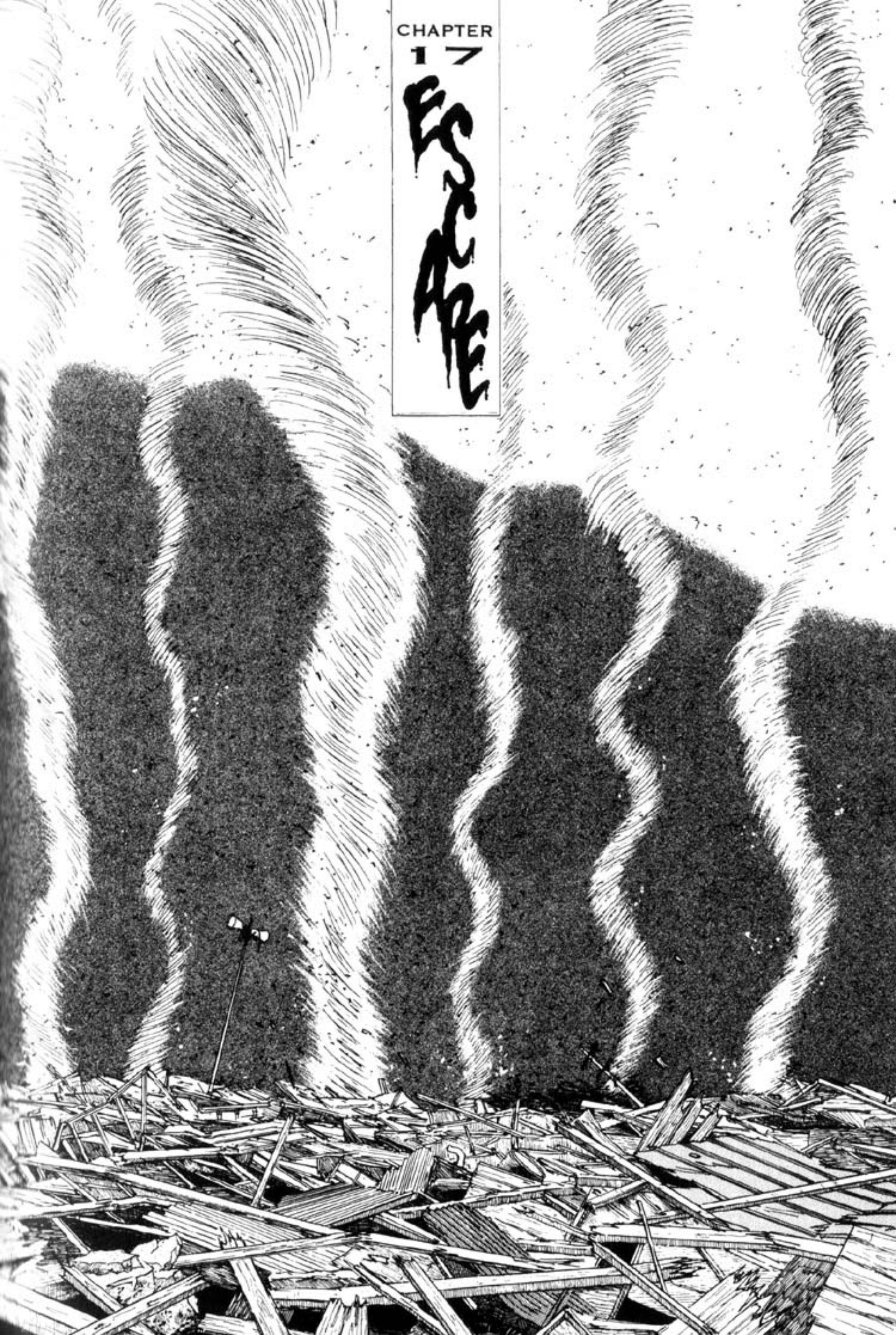




CHAPTER

17

Escape

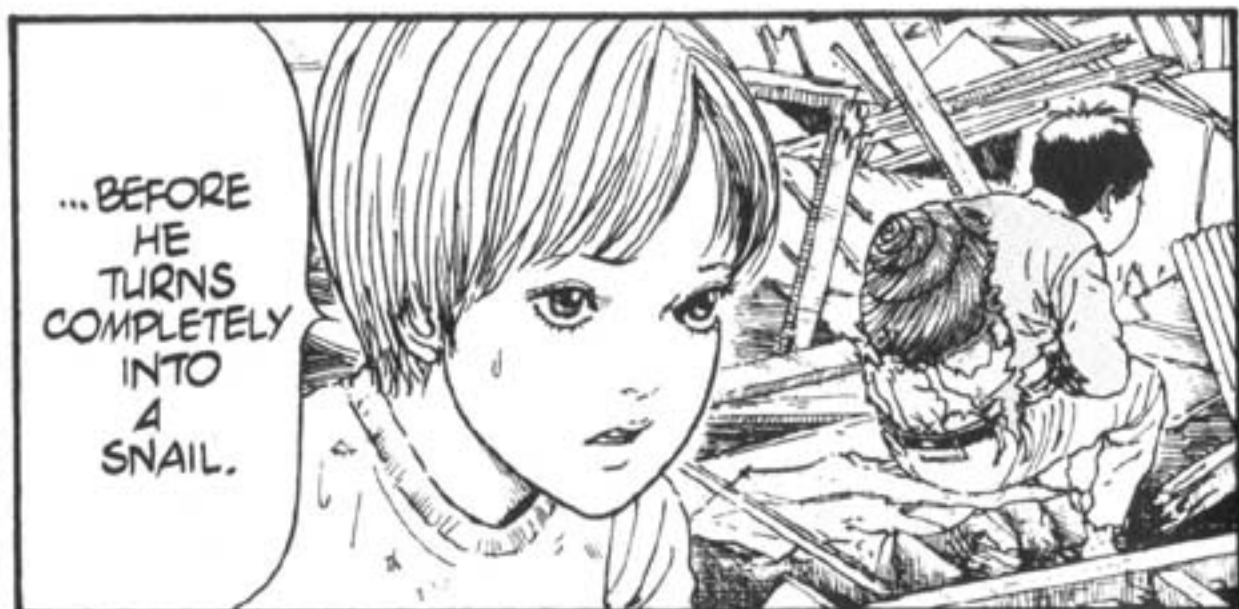






WE'RE  
GOING.

I'VE  
GOT  
TO  
GET  
MITSUO  
OUT  
OF  
HERE...



...BEFORE  
HE  
TURNS  
COMPLETELY  
INTO  
A  
SNAIL.



HE'LL  
GO  
BACK  
TO  
NORMAL  
ONCE  
WE'RE  
OUTSIDE  
KURŌZU-  
CHO.



AFTER  
THAT  
I'LL  
KNOW  
THE  
WAY  
OUT...

AND  
SO  
I'LL  
COME  
BACK  
FOR  
MY  
PARENTS.



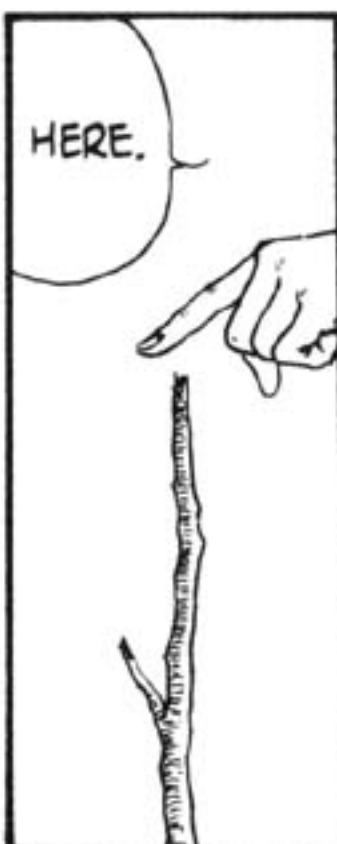
BUT  
HOW  
ARE  
WE  
SUPPOSED  
TO  
GET  
OUT?

WE  
CAN'T  
GO  
BY  
THE  
ROAD  
OR  
BY  
SEA...



WHAT  
ABOUT  
THE  
HILLS?

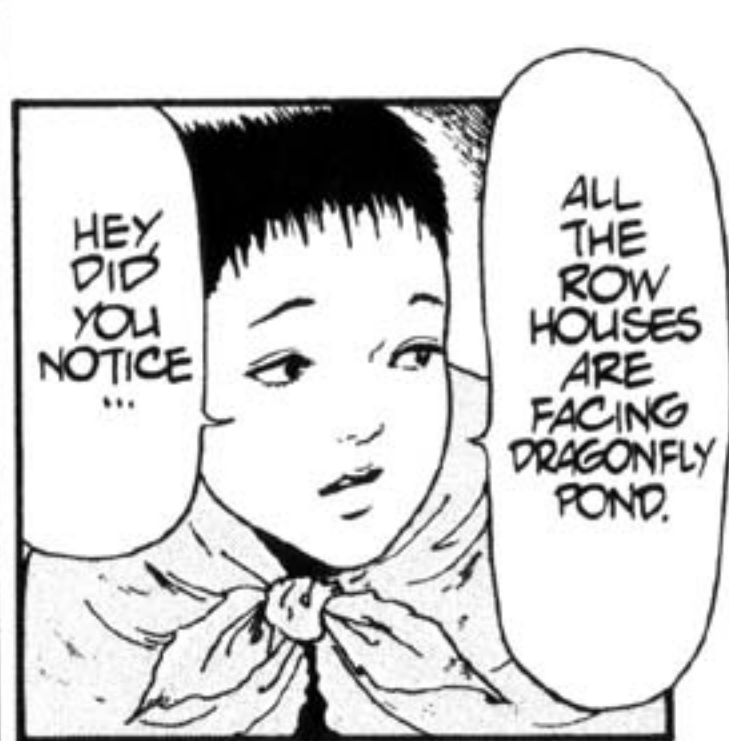








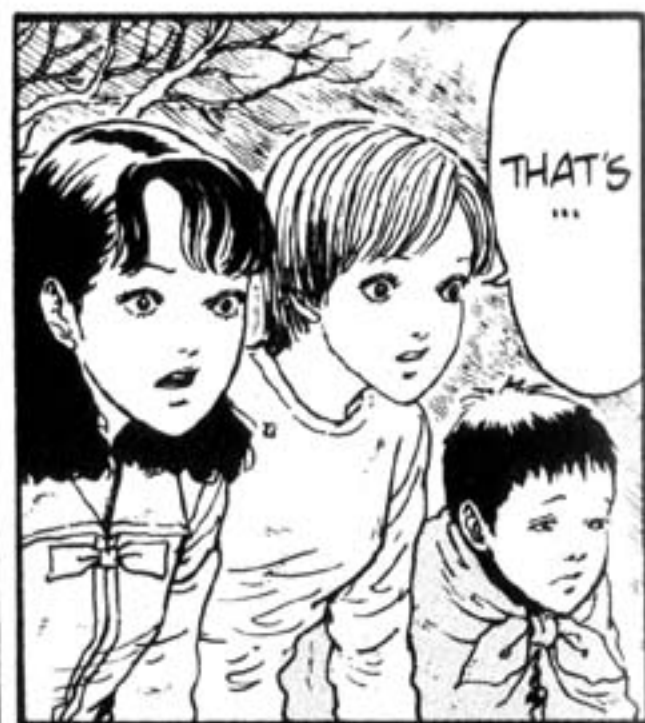








THE WIND'S COMING FROM THAT MAN ON THE ROW HOUSE! HE'S NAILING NEW PLANKS TO THE ROOF!



THAT'S ...



THAT'S MR. TANIZAKI!



HEY YOU! ARE YOU TRYING TO ESCAPE?

I'LL BE DONE BY THE TIME YOU COME BACK! THERE'LL BE A PLACE FOR ALL OF YOU!



KWAAAAA

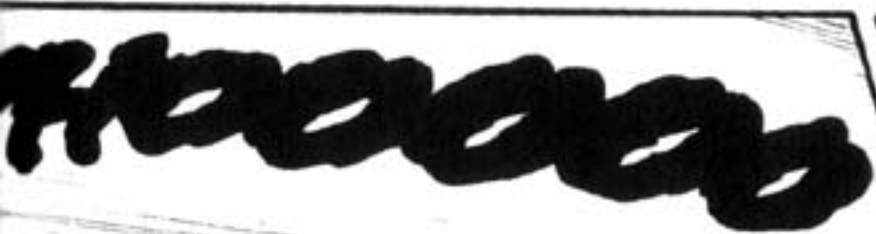




WHEN I LOOKED  
MORE CLOSELY, I  
COULD SEE THAT  
MR. TANIZAKI  
WASN'T ALONE.



ALL AROUND THE  
TOWN, PEOPLE  
WERE REBUILDING,  
ADDING EXTENSIONS  
TO THE HOUSES.







I CAN'T STAND THAT SOUND!

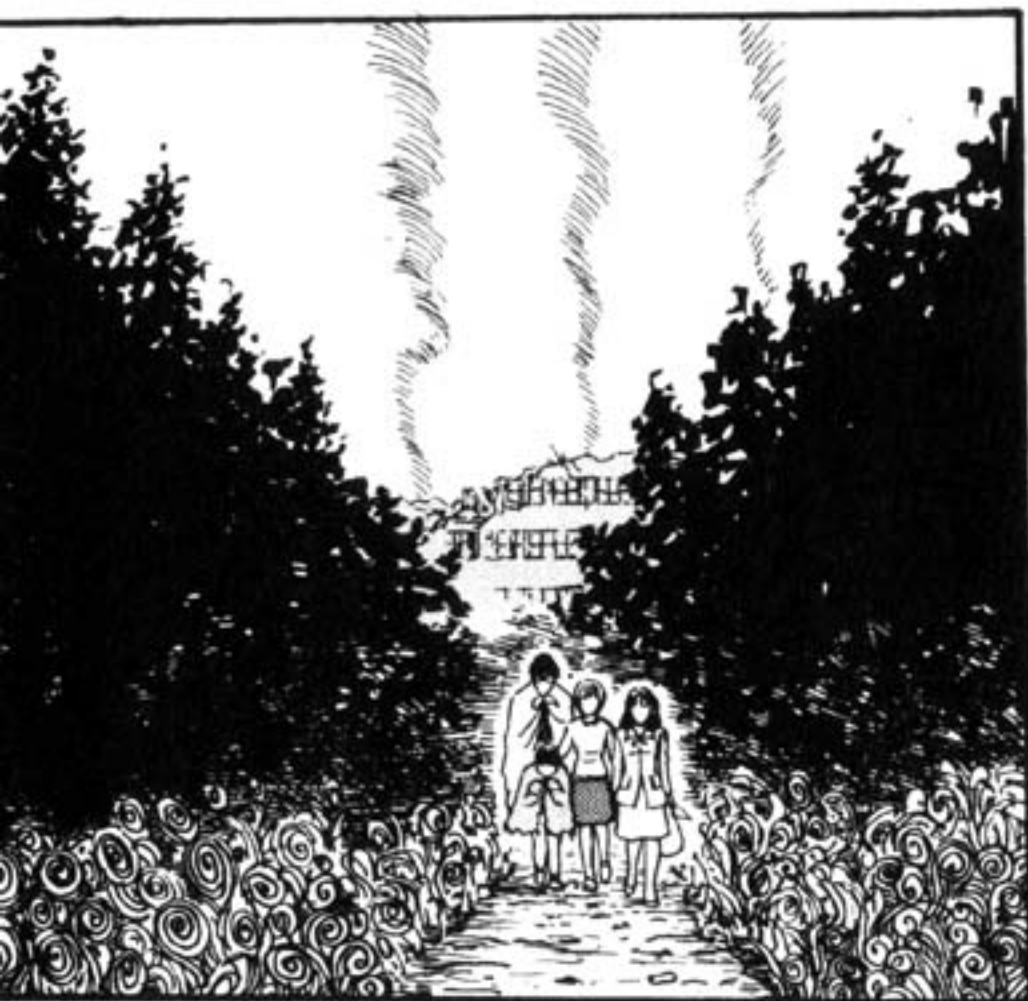
IT JUST PIERCES THROUGH MY EARS!

AARG!  
COME ON!

THE POWER HAD BEEN OFF SINCE THE STORM, BUT THE SIREN STILL BLARED.

IT MADE ITS NOISE AT IRREGULAR INTERVALS, AS IF SIGNALING THE ESCAPE OF PRISONERS.

AARG!



THE GRASS, THE TREES...



HOW LONG HAVE THEY BEEN LIKE THIS?





THE  
PATTERN'S  
HERE,  
TOO.

IT'S  
DOWN  
TO THE  
LEVEL OF  
GROWING  
CELLS.



WE'VE  
BEEN  
WALKING  
FOR A  
WHILE...  
HOW LONG  
DOES THIS  
TRAIL  
GO ON?

NOT  
MUCH  
LONGER...  
IT SHOULD  
LEAD  
TO A  
PAVED  
ROAD  
SOON.



HFF

BUT  
IT'S  
LONGER  
THAN I  
REMEMBER.

HFF

KIRIE,  
MY BACK  
HURTS...  
WE'RE  
WALKING  
TOO  
FAST...

HFF



TMP

TMP

LOOKS  
LIKE  
MORE  
VISITORS  
TO  
KURÖZU-CHO.



Ah!



MR. TAKEMOTO?

WHY ARE YOU GOING THIS WAY?

WHAT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WE'RE TRYING TO GET OUT OF KURÔZU-CHO.

THERE'S A MOUNTAIN ROAD THIS WAY THAT'S SUPPOSED TO LEAD TO THE NEXT TOWN.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THE ROAD'S THIS WAY.

WE JUST LEFT TOWN, TOO.

WHICH TRAIL DID YOU TAKE?

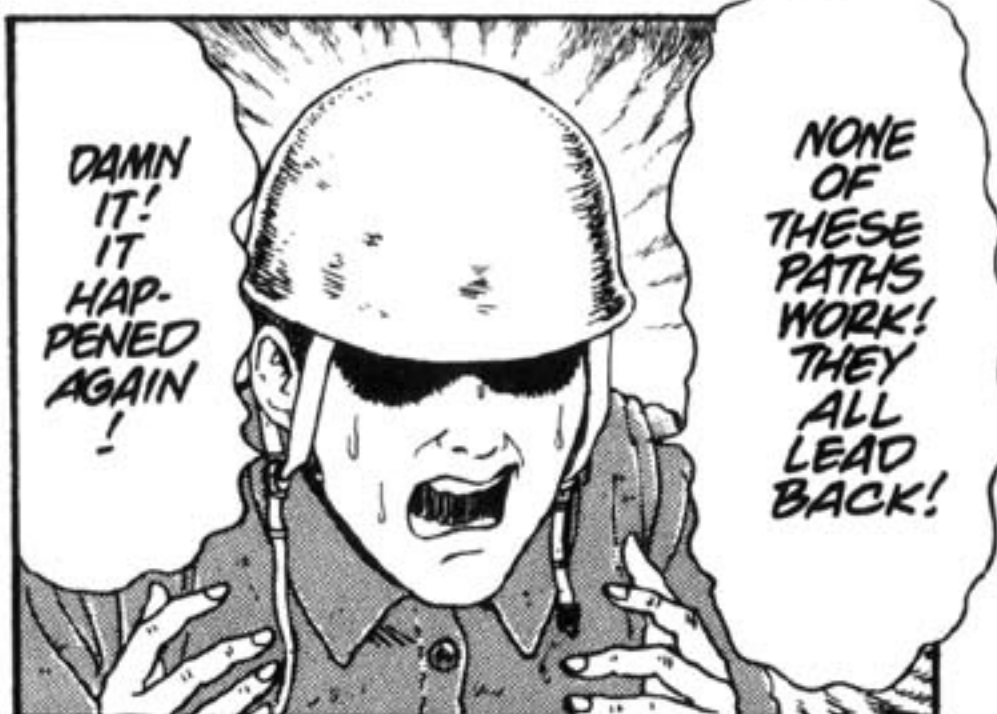
WE TOOK THE TRAIL RIGHT BY KURÔZU HIGH SCHOOL.

WE TOOK THE SAME ONE, BECAUSE WE SAW YOU AHEAD.

SO WE WERE JUST FOLLOWING YOU.

IT SEEMS YOU CAME BACK HERE WITHOUT REALIZING IT.









WHY  
DO YOU  
HAVE  
HIM  
TIED  
UP?

Huh?



Oh,  
you  
mean  
OKAMOTO?



IT'S  
TO MAKE  
SURE  
HE  
DOESN'T  
RUN  
OFF.

HE'S  
THE  
MOST  
IMPORTANT  
MEMBER  
OF  
OUR  
PARTY.

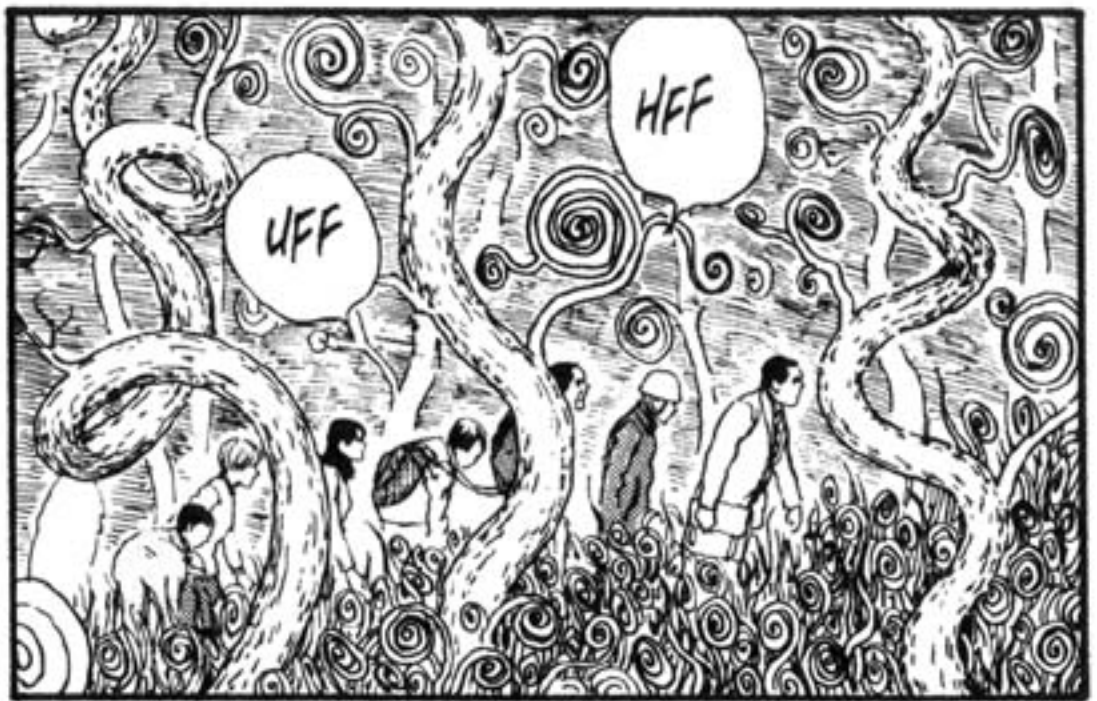


LOOK  
AT THAT  
SHELL.  
AND IT'S  
FULL OF  
MEAT!

HE'S OUR EMERGENCY  
FOOD SUPPLY. WE  
DIDN'T KNOW HOW  
LONG WE'D BE OUT  
HERE. SOON HE'LL  
TURN INTO A SNAIL...  
AND THEN WE'LL BE  
ABLE TO EAT HIM.







I CAN'T  
LOOK  
AT THIS.

IT'S  
MAKING  
ME  
DIZZY.



KIRIE,  
MY  
**BACK**  
ITCHES!

I  
NEED  
YOU TO  
SCRATCH  
IT!











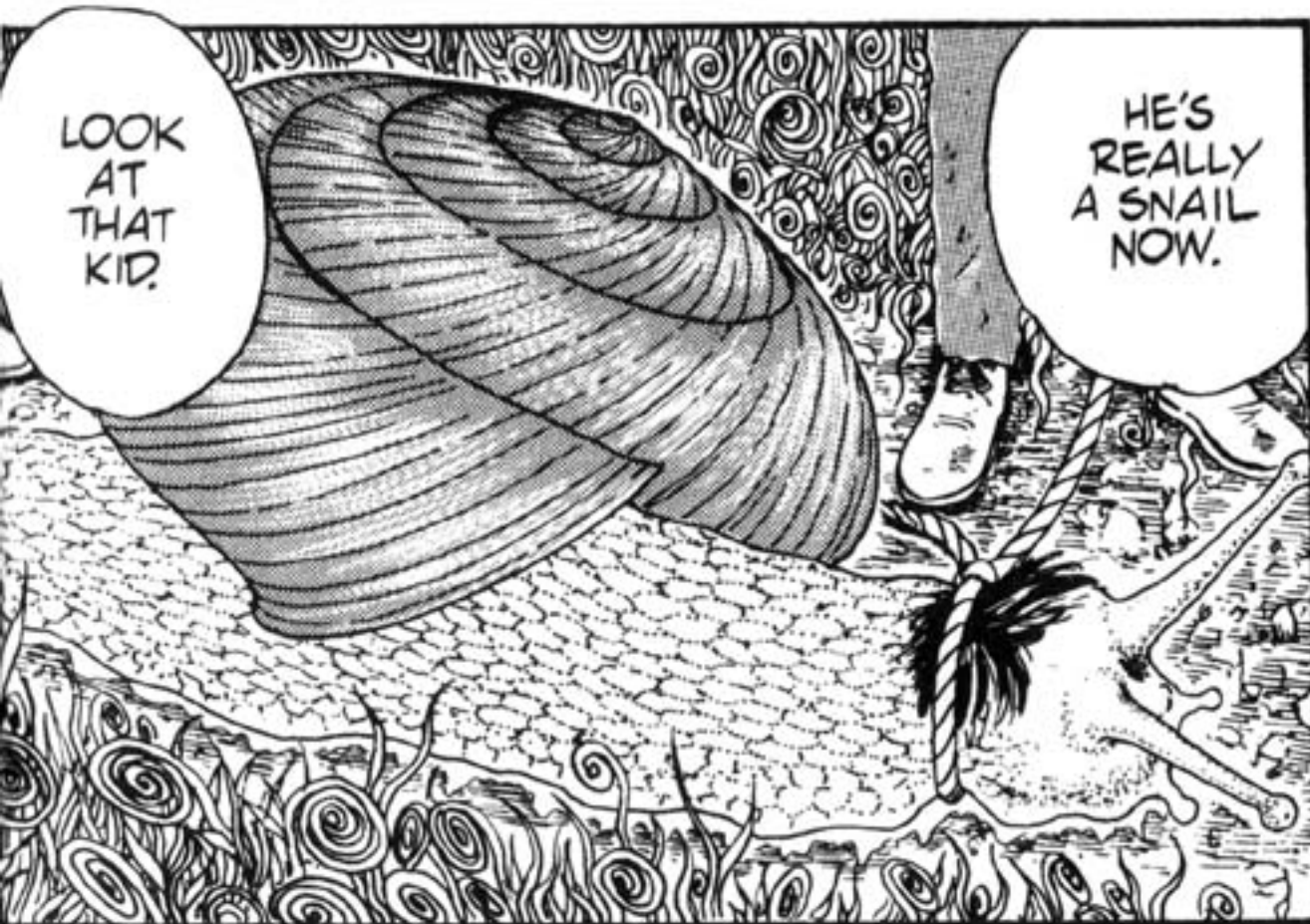
DAMN...

LOOKS  
LIKE  
WE'RE  
GOING  
AROUND IN  
CIRCLES.



URR...

I'M  
STARVING!



LOOK  
AT  
THAT  
KID.

HE'S  
REALLY  
A SNAIL  
NOW.



GLP



I  
THINK  
IT'S TIME.  
YOU WANT  
TO COOK  
HIM?

NO...



I-I'D  
LIKE TO  
TRY ONE  
RAW.

RAW?



YEAH,  
THAT'S  
A  
GOOD  
IDEA.





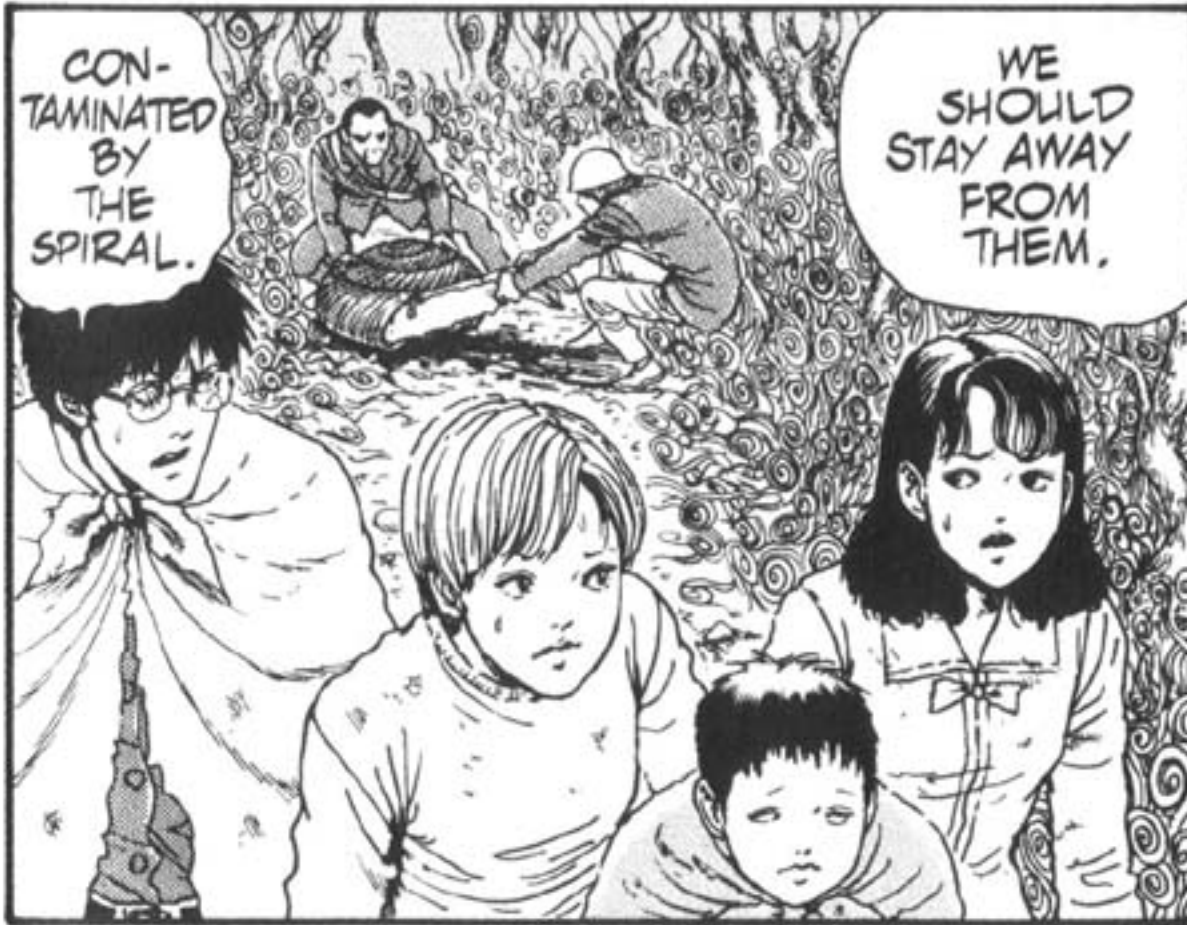
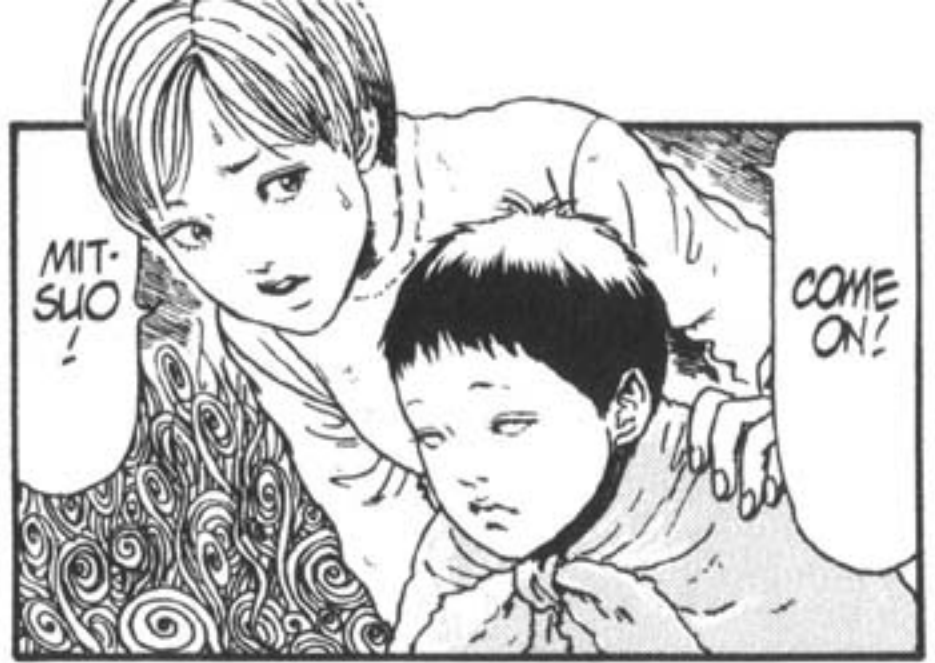
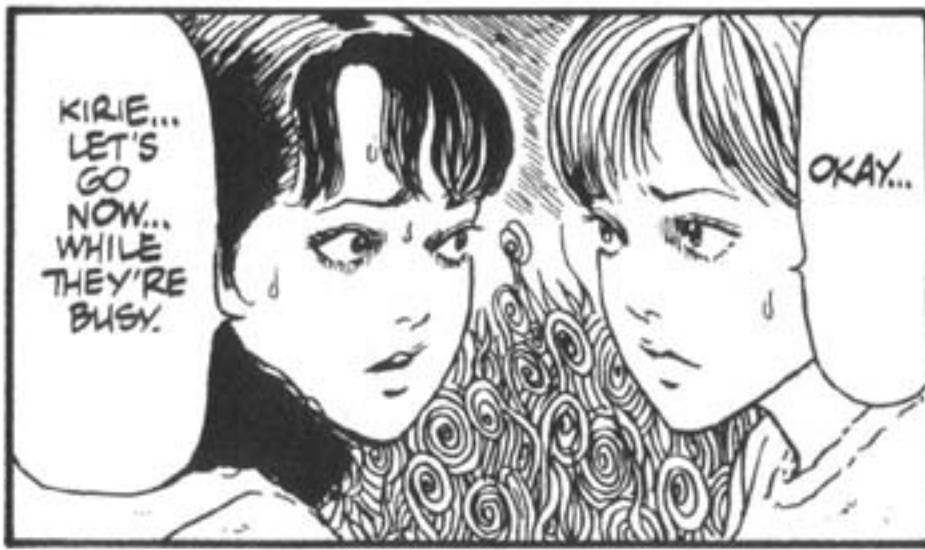




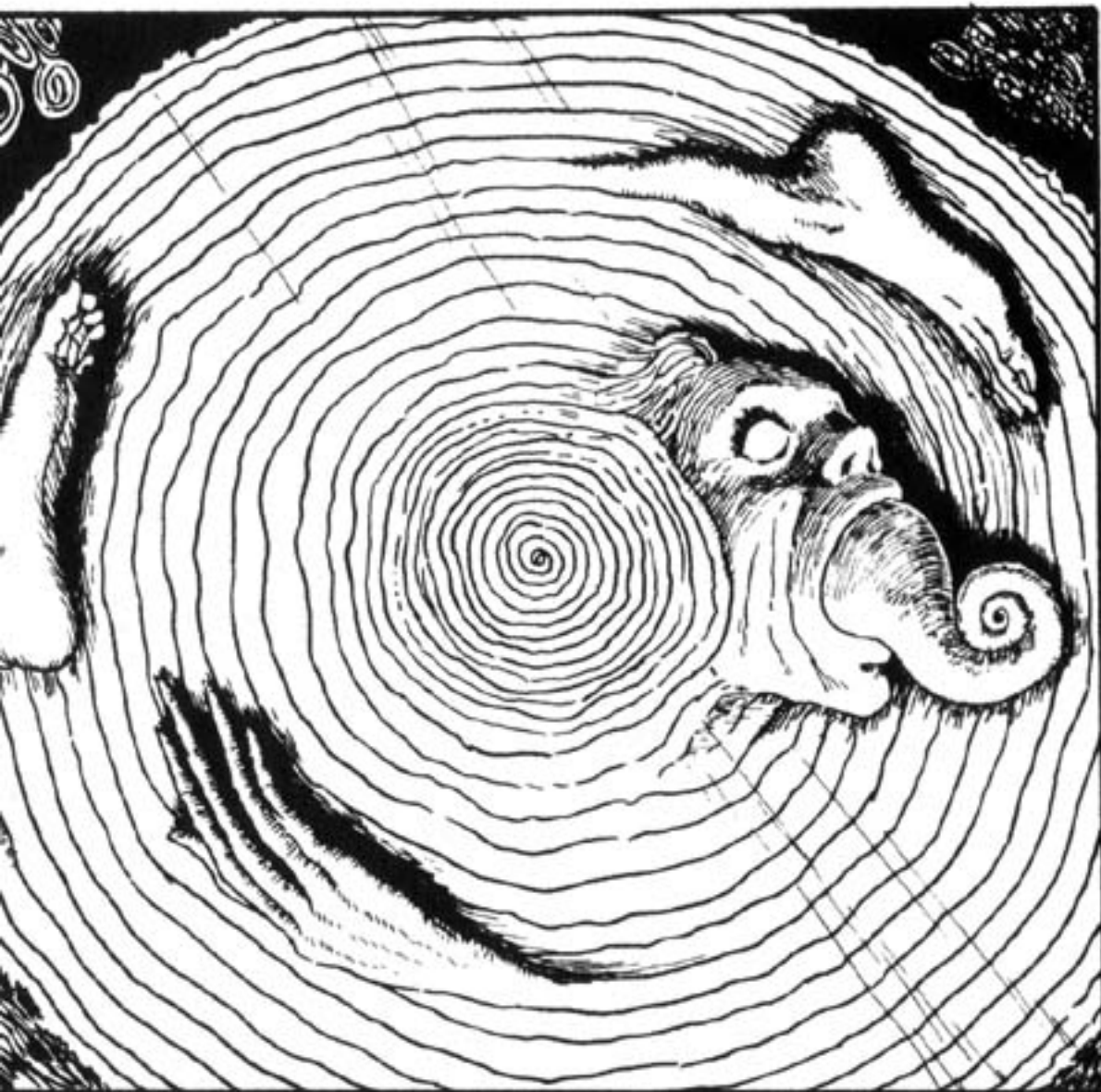








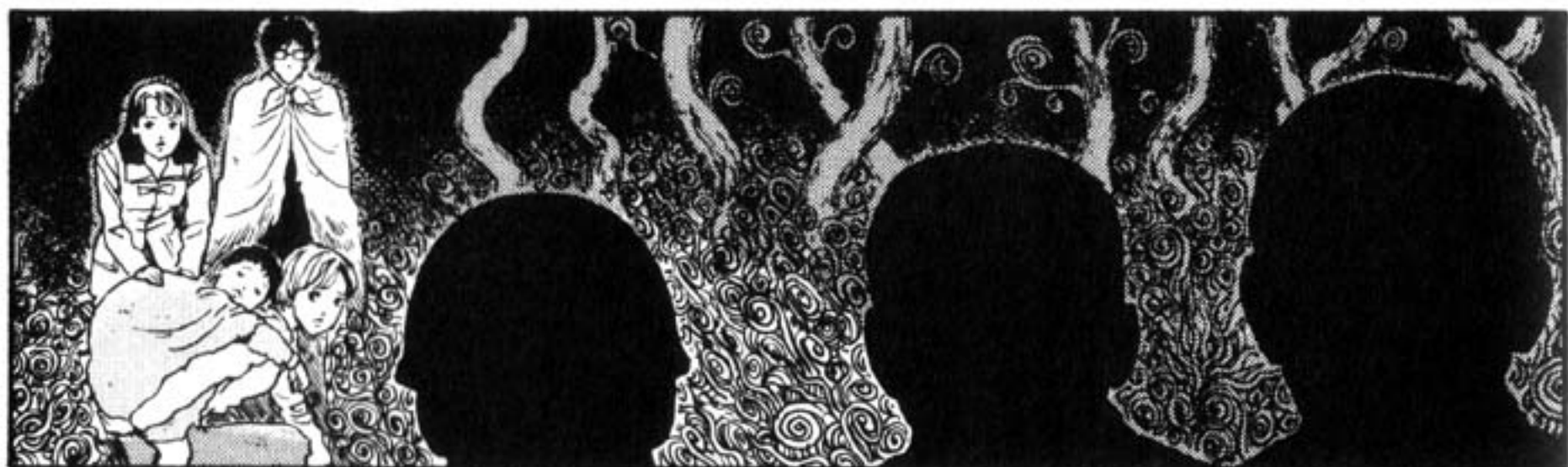




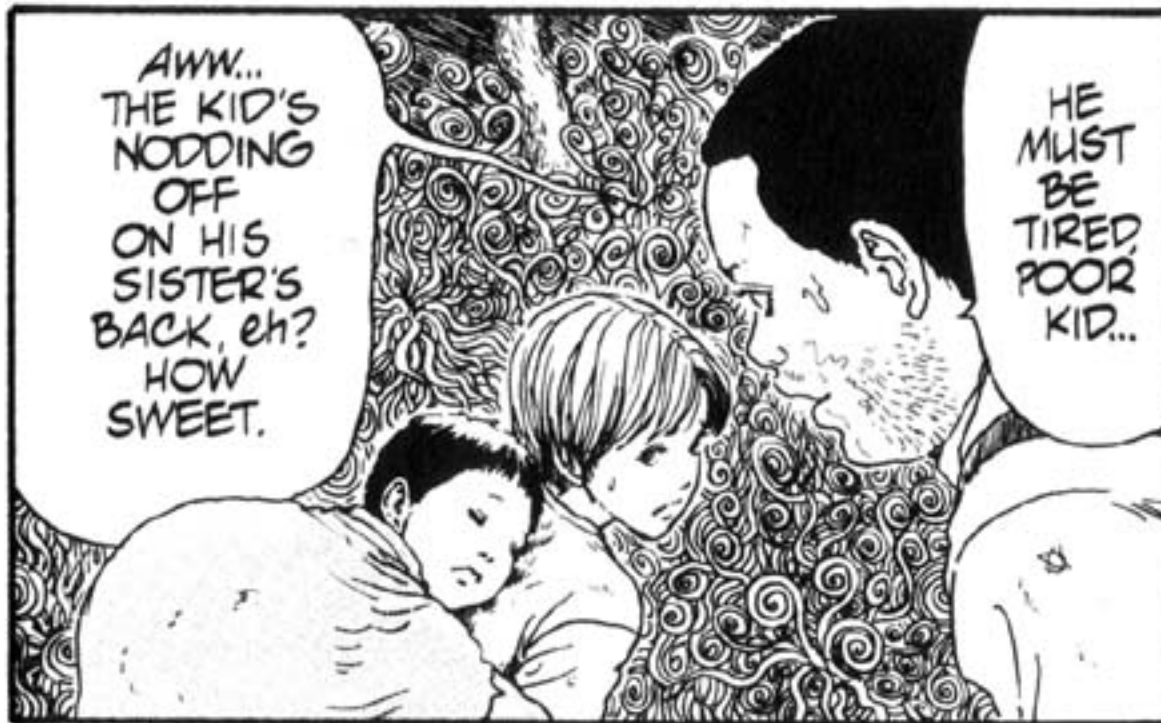




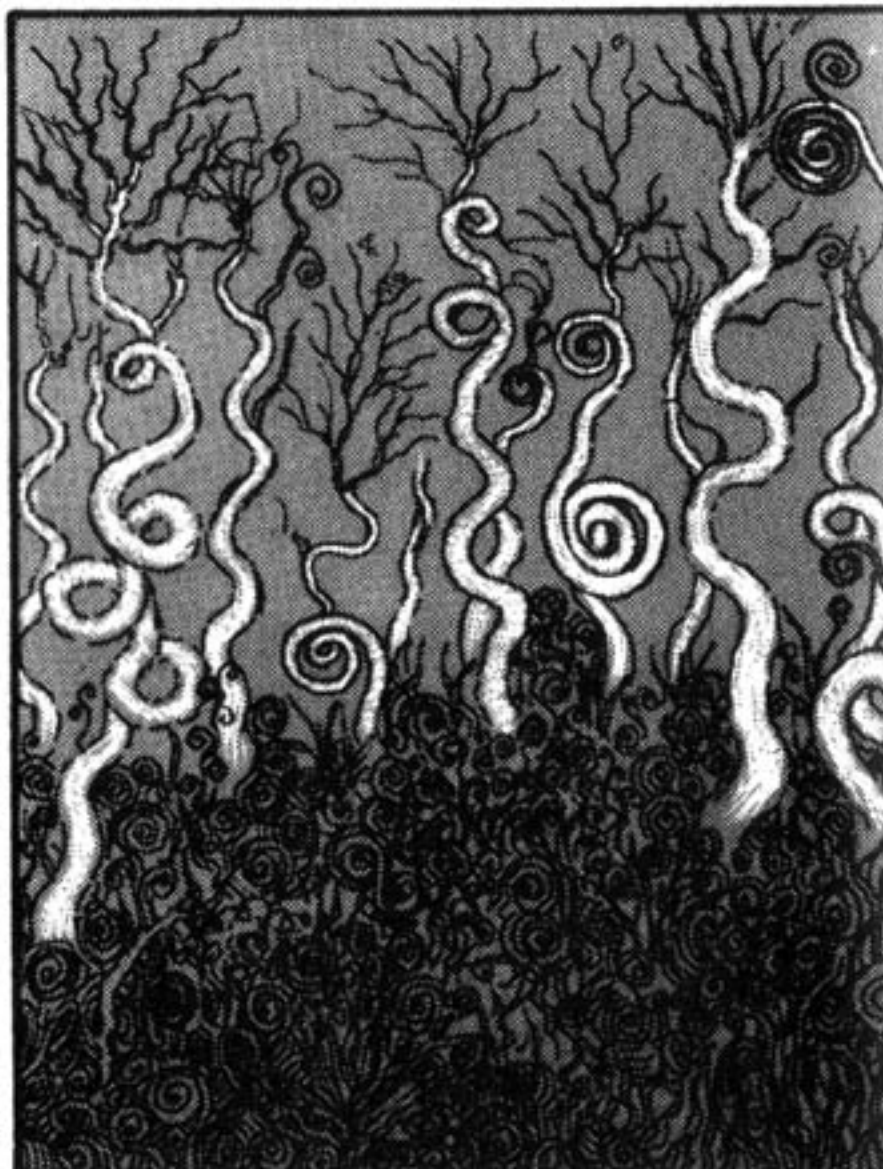
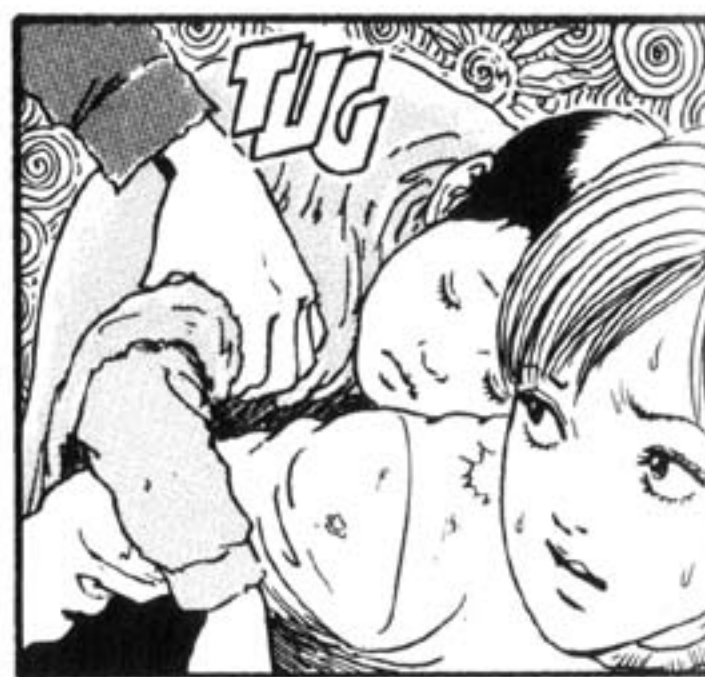




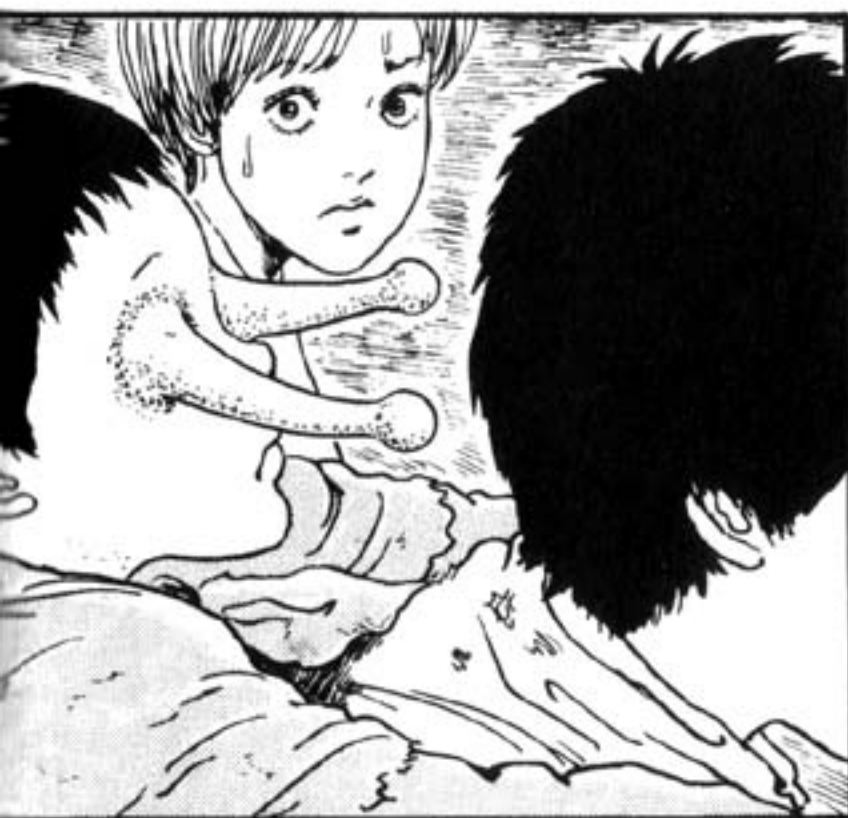








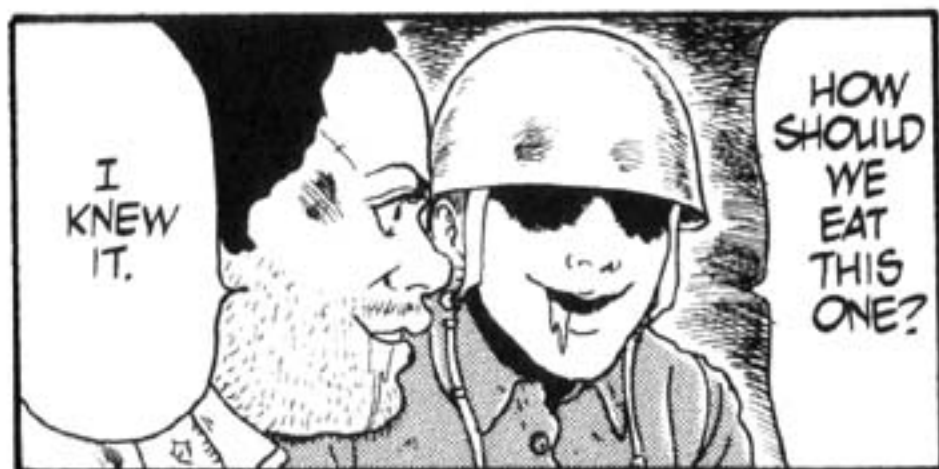




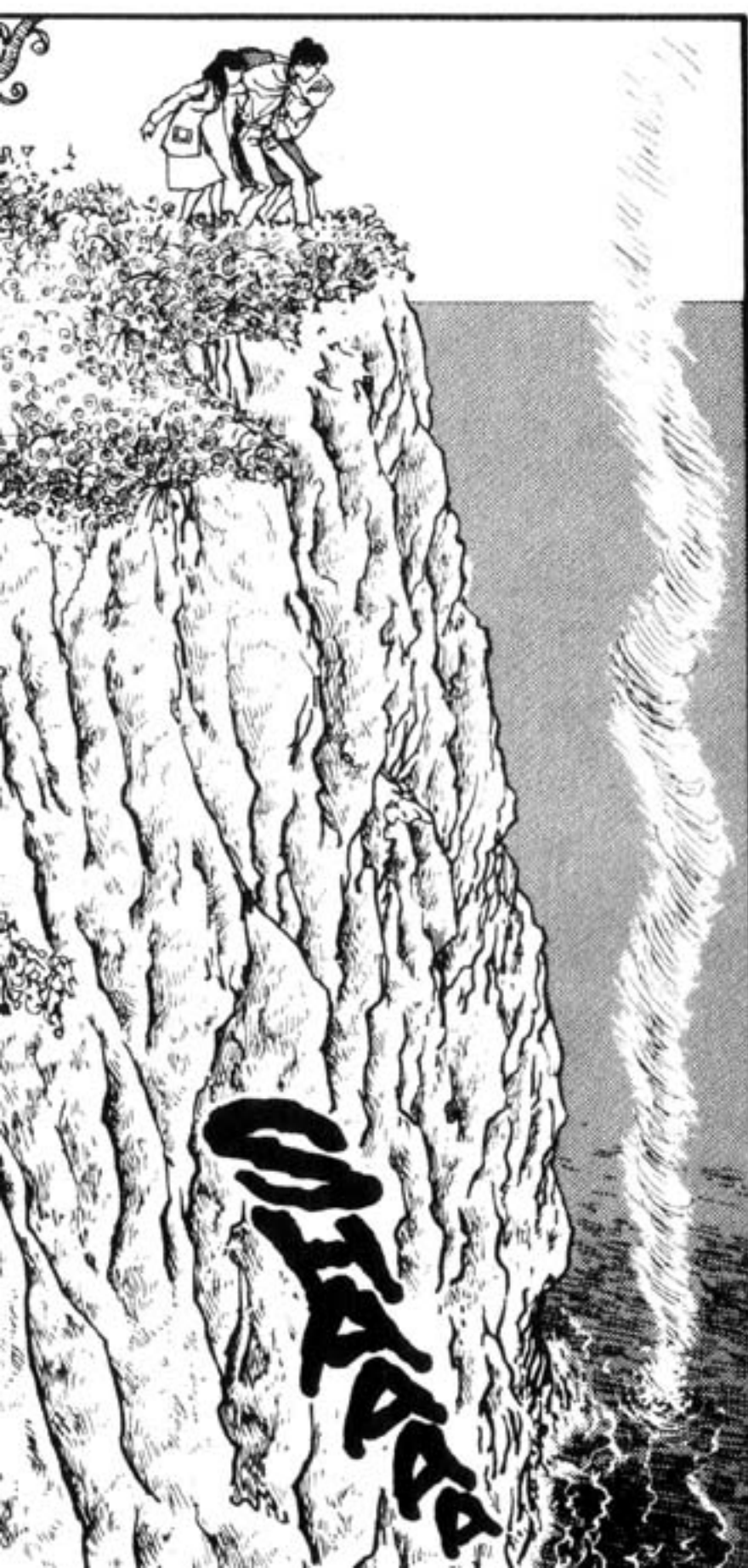
























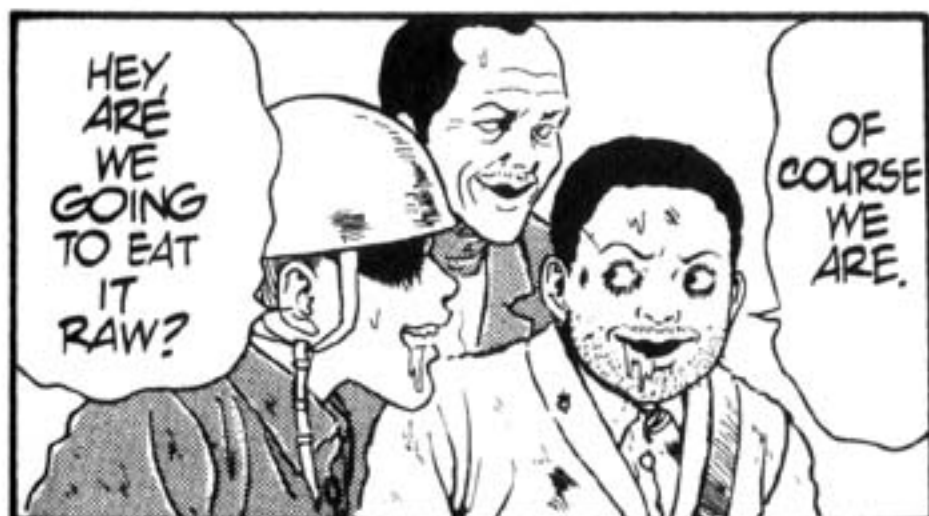
HEY, KURŌZU-CHO'S THAT WAY!

ARE YOU GOING TO GO BACK? HAHHAH...



WE HAVE NO CHOICE. LET'S KEEP GOING..

WE'LL FIND MITSUO LATER.

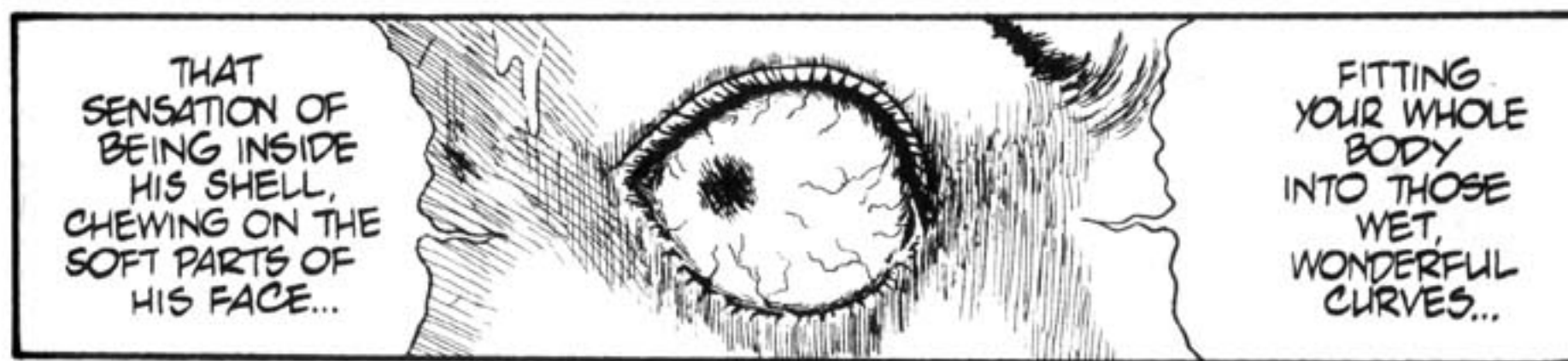


HEY, ARE WE GOING TO EAT IT RAW?

OF COURSE WE ARE.

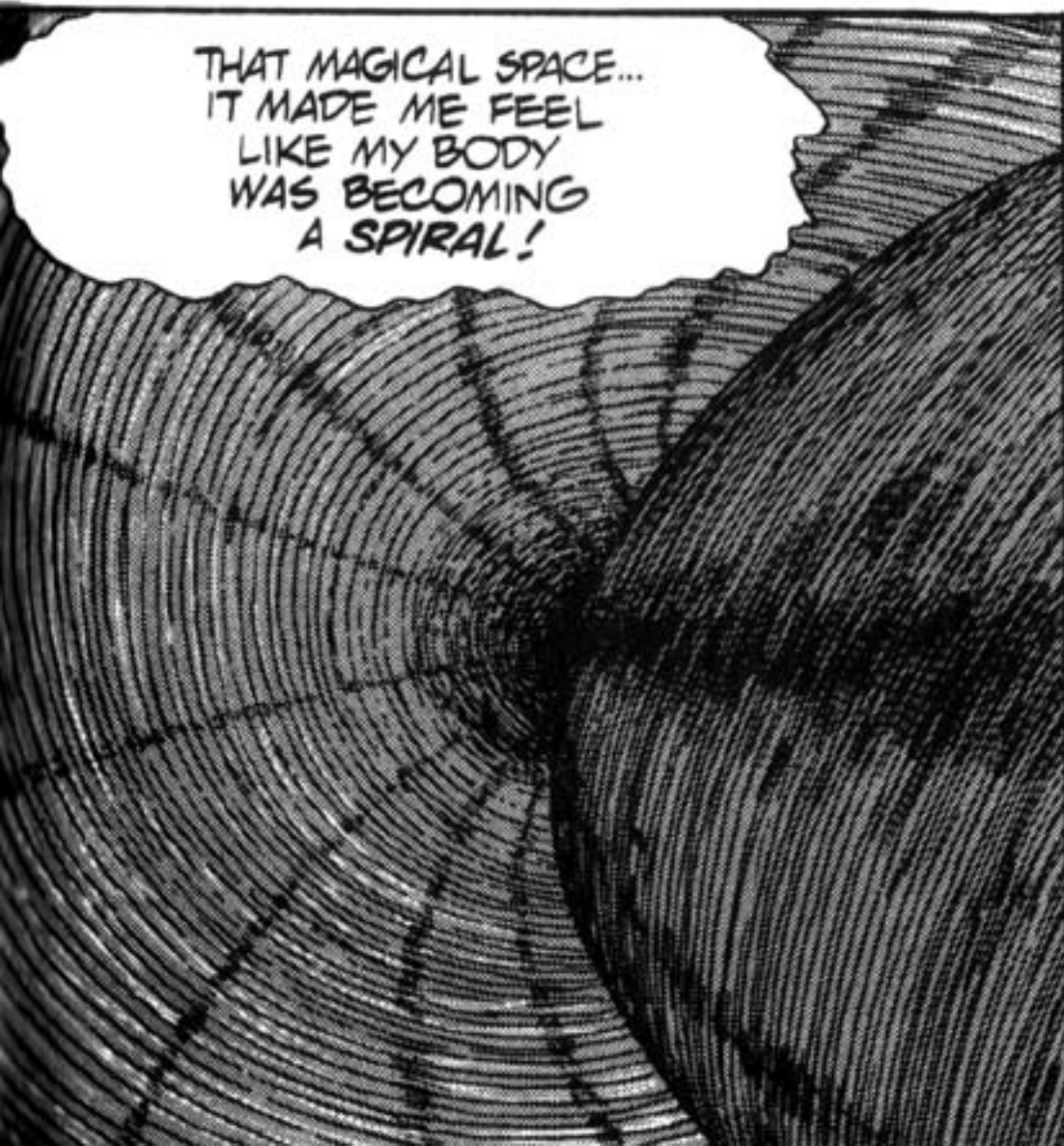


REMEMBER WHAT OKAMOTO TASTED LIKE?



THAT SENSATION OF BEING INSIDE HIS SHELL, CHEWING ON THE SOFT PARTS OF HIS FACE...

FITTING YOUR WHOLE BODY INTO THOSE WET, WONDERFUL CURVES...

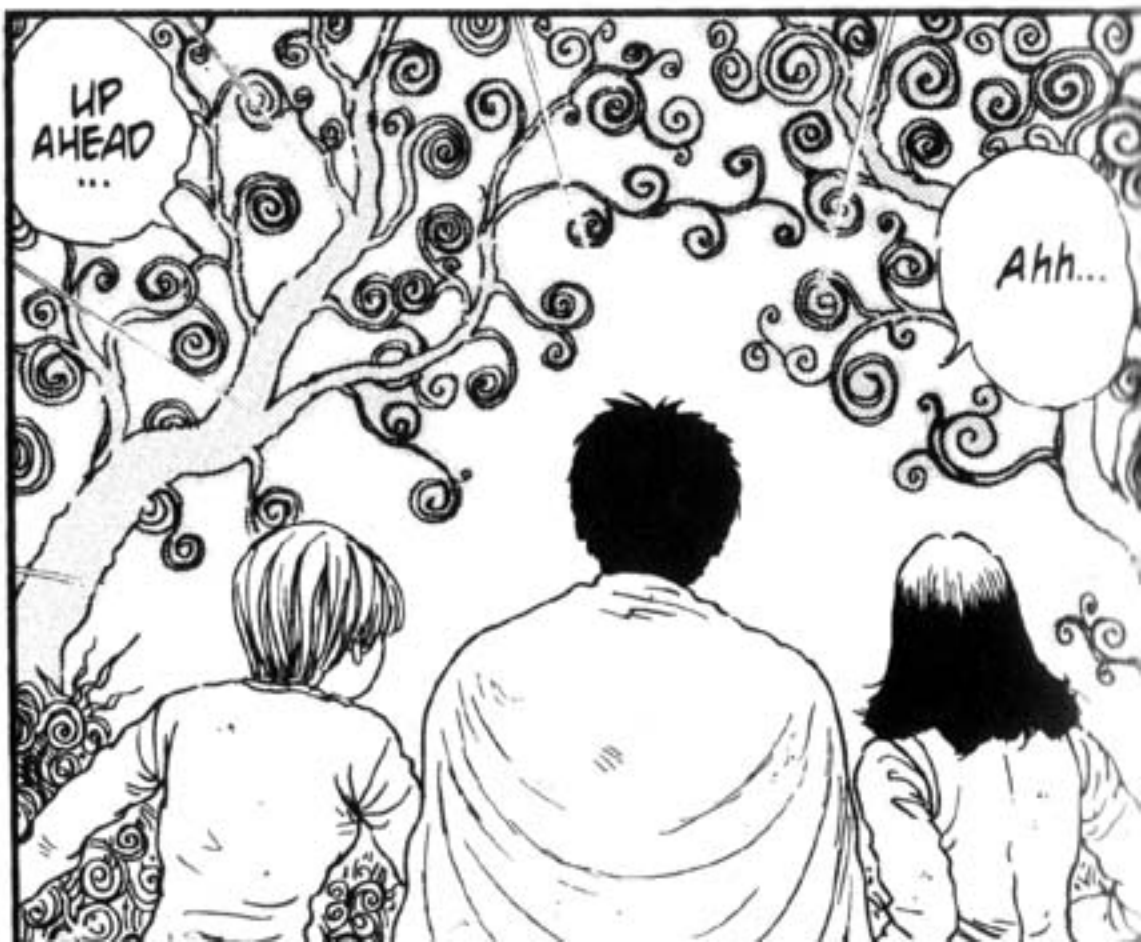


THAT MAGICAL SPACE... IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE MY BODY WAS BECOMING A SPIRAL!



JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO...





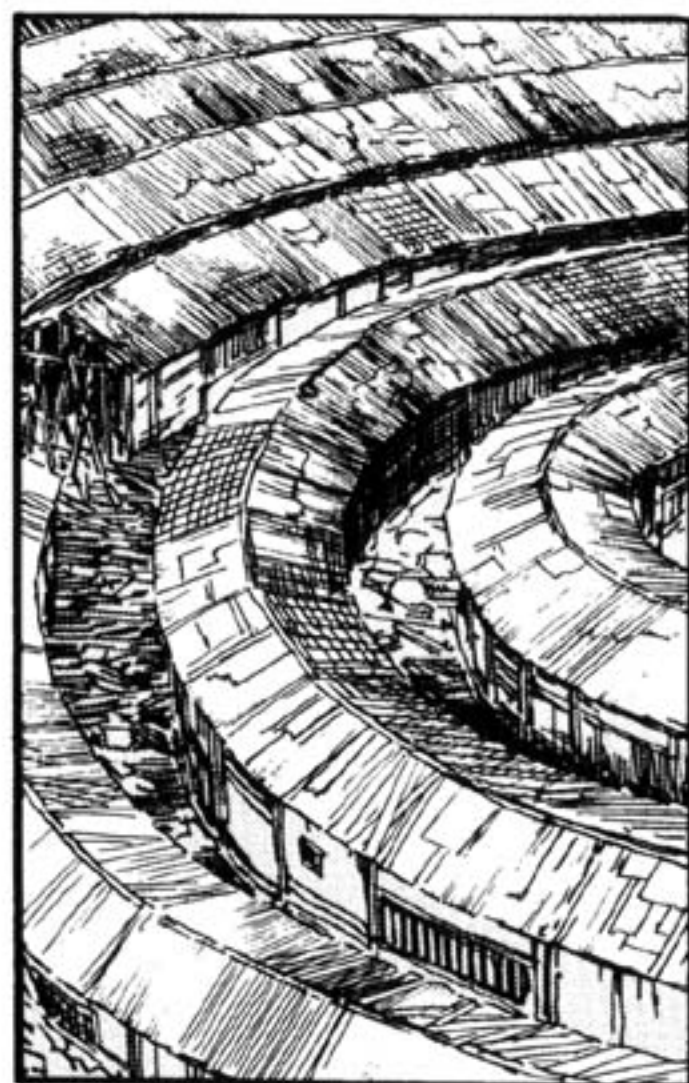
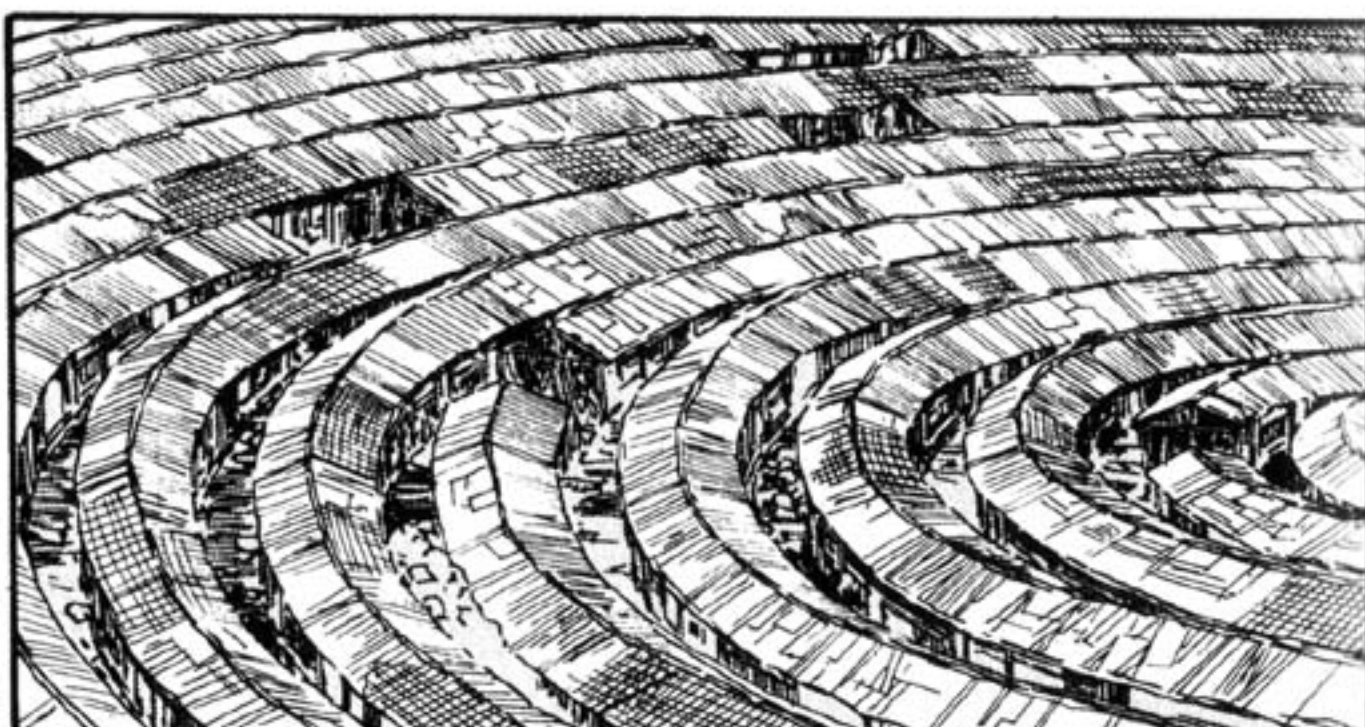




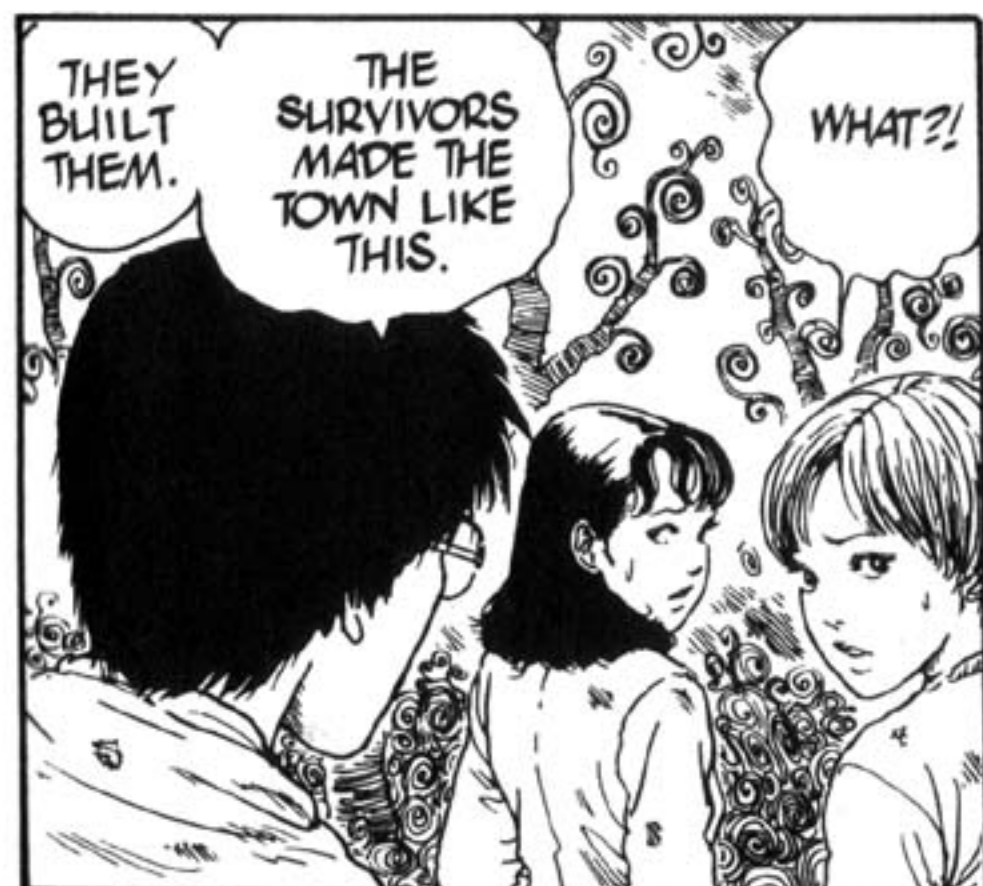
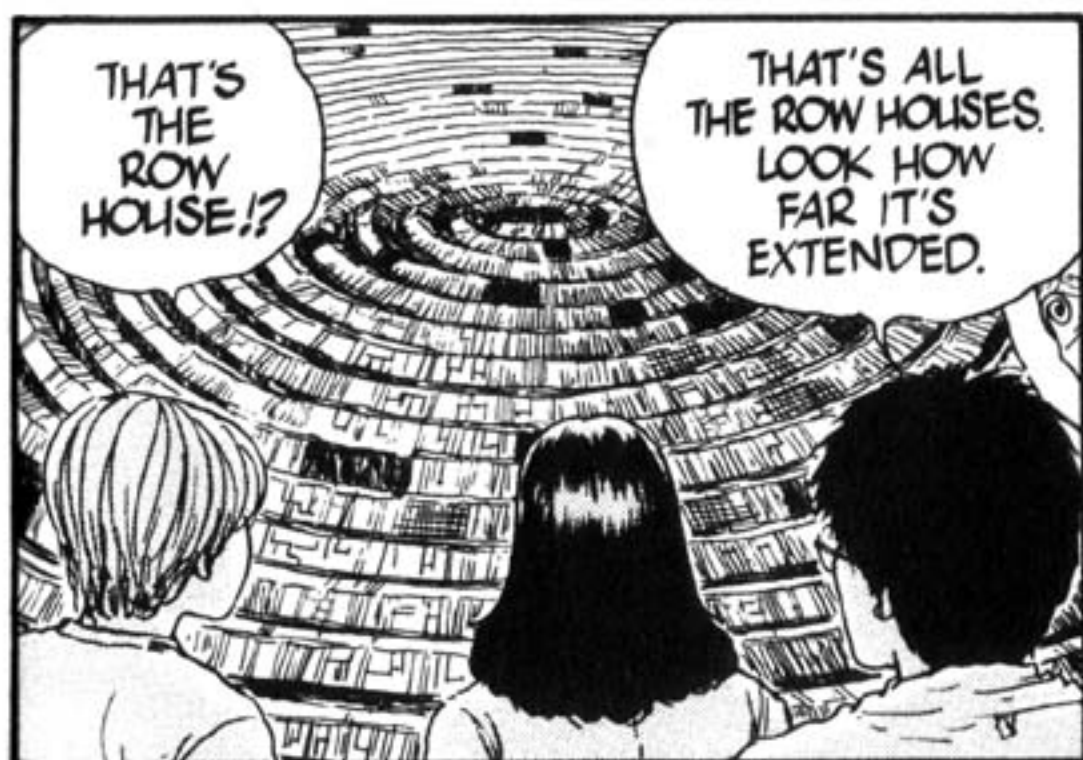




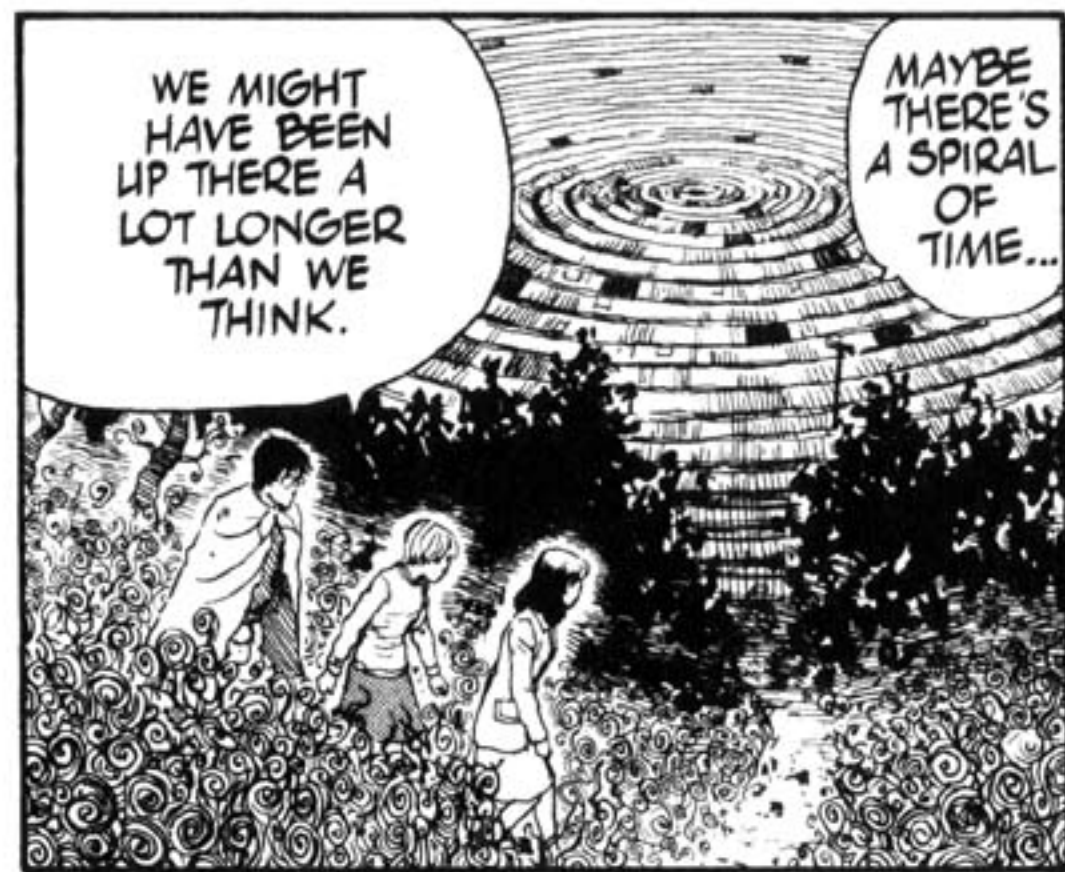




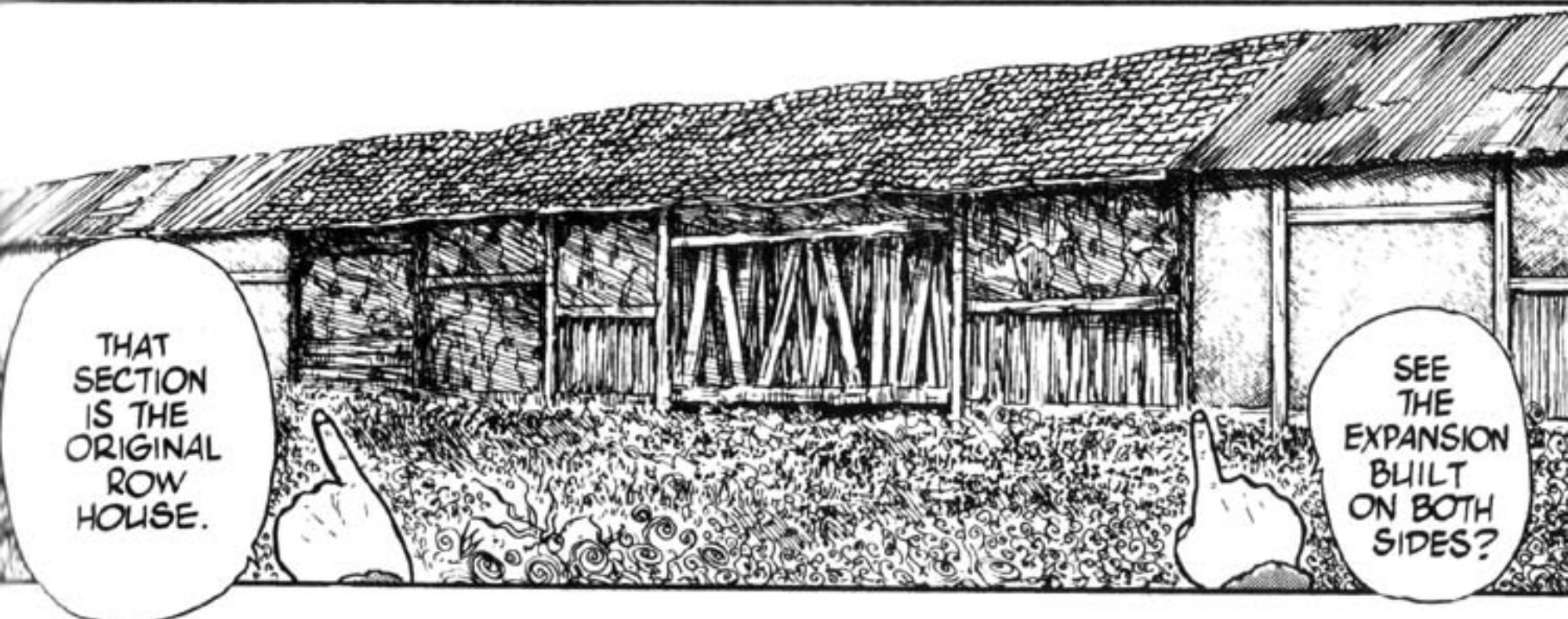
















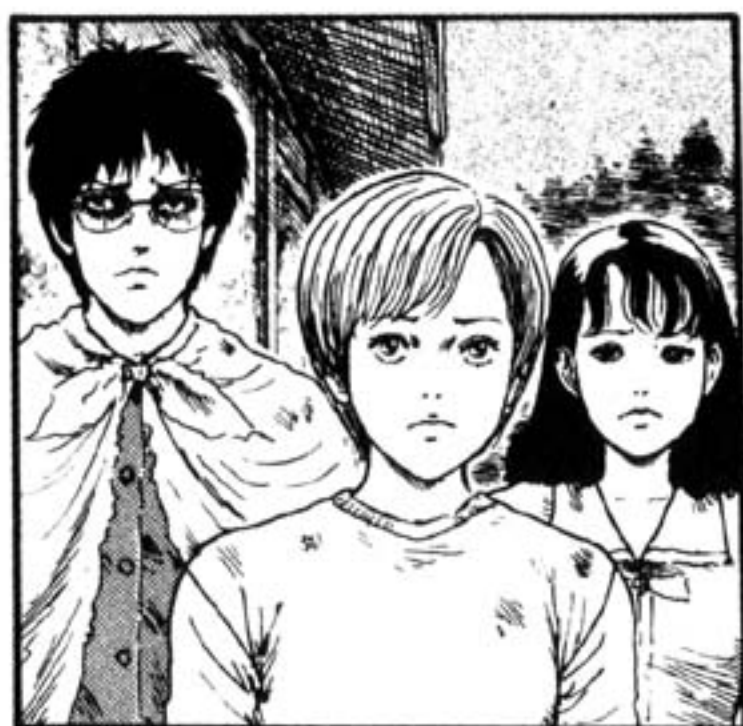




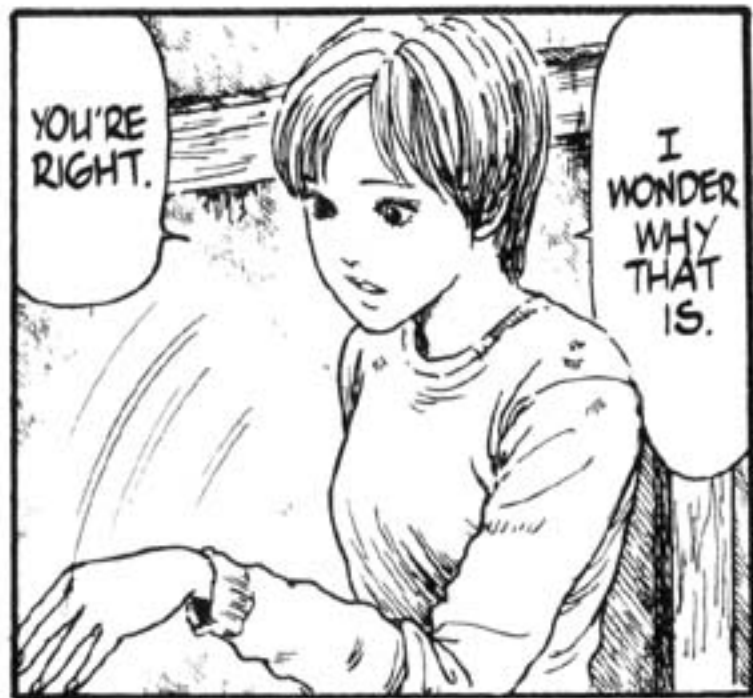


WE WALKED  
EVEN  
FARTHER,  
AND AT  
LAST...

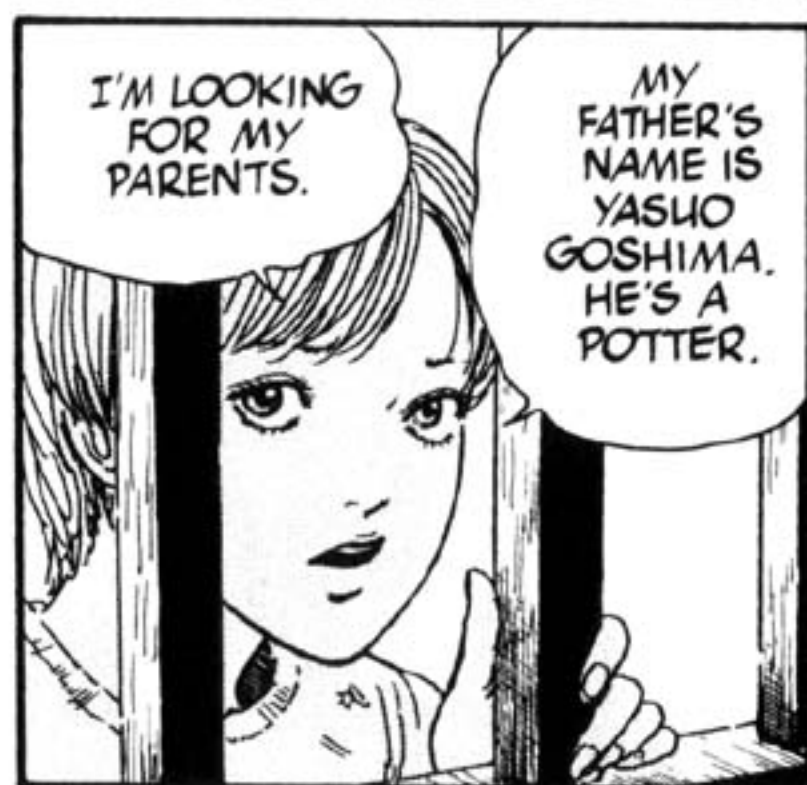
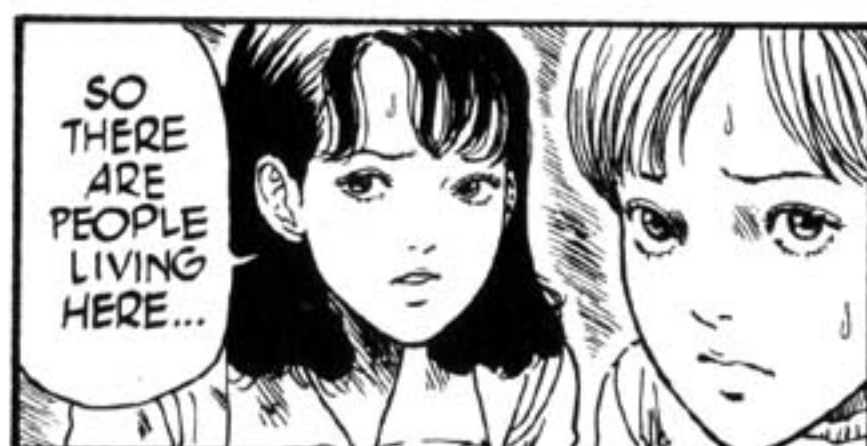
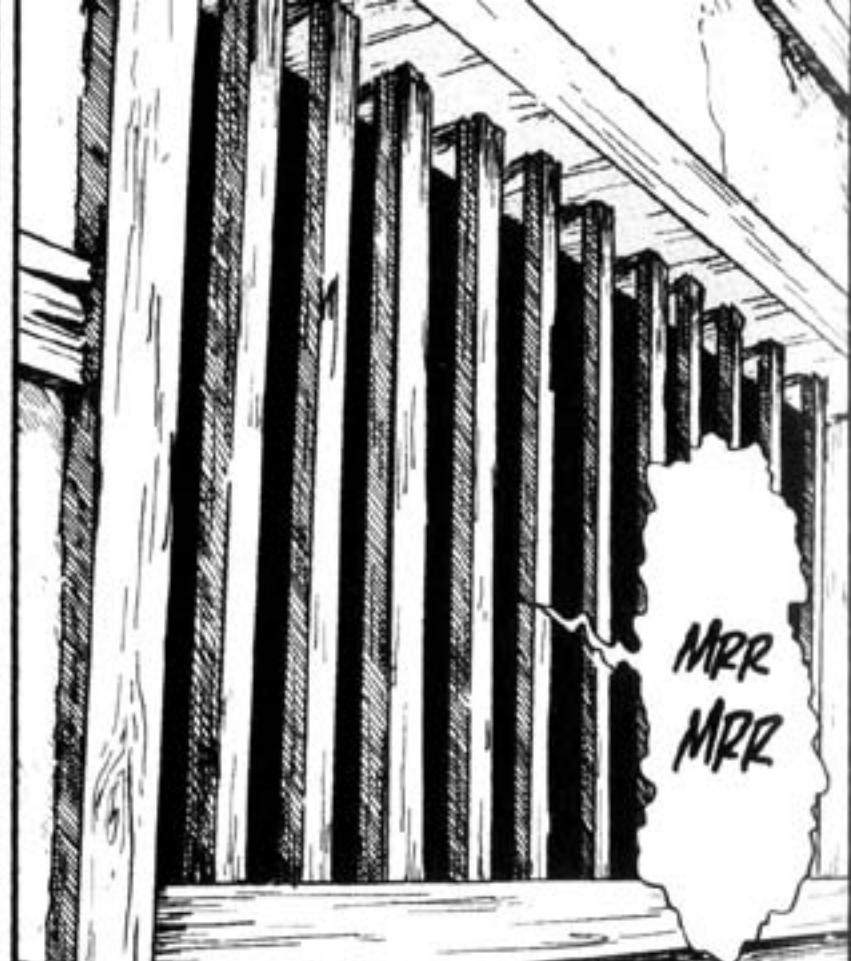
WE  
FOUND  
THE  
WAY  
INTO  
THE  
ALLEY.



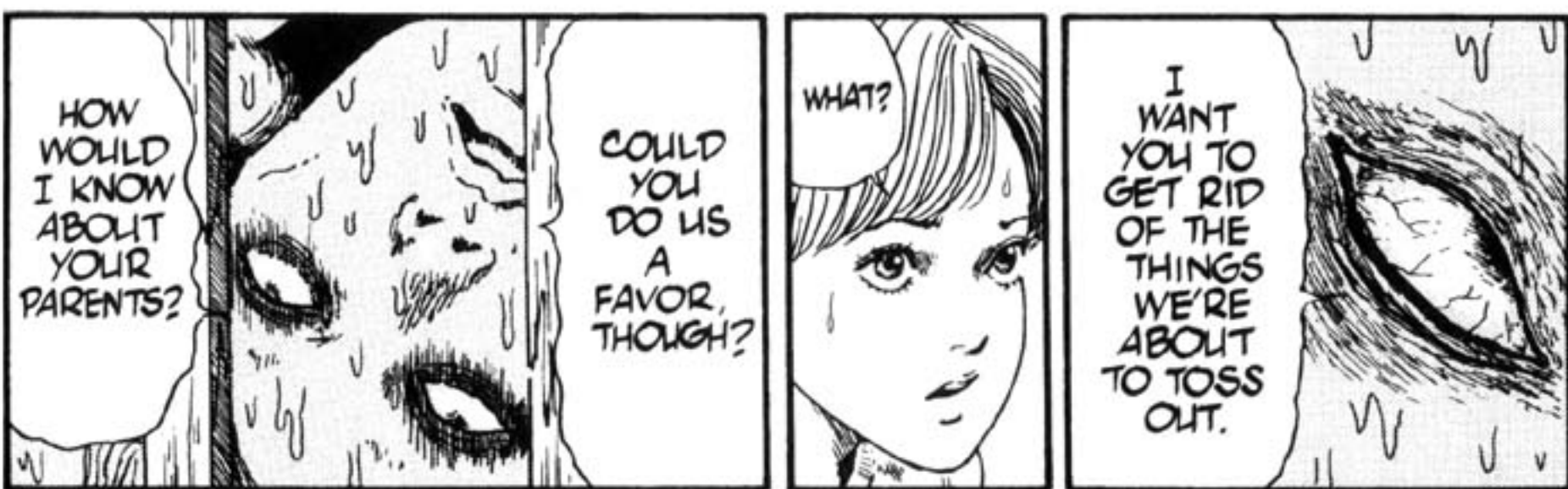
















HE  
DIED  
THIS  
MORNING.

IT WAS  
SUCH AN ORDEAL  
TO UNTANGLE  
THAT CORPSE  
FROM US...

PLEASE TAKE  
IT SOMEWHERE  
AND BURN IT...THE  
SMELL WILL BE  
UNBEARABLE SOON...



Ahh...

LET'S  
JUST  
GO!



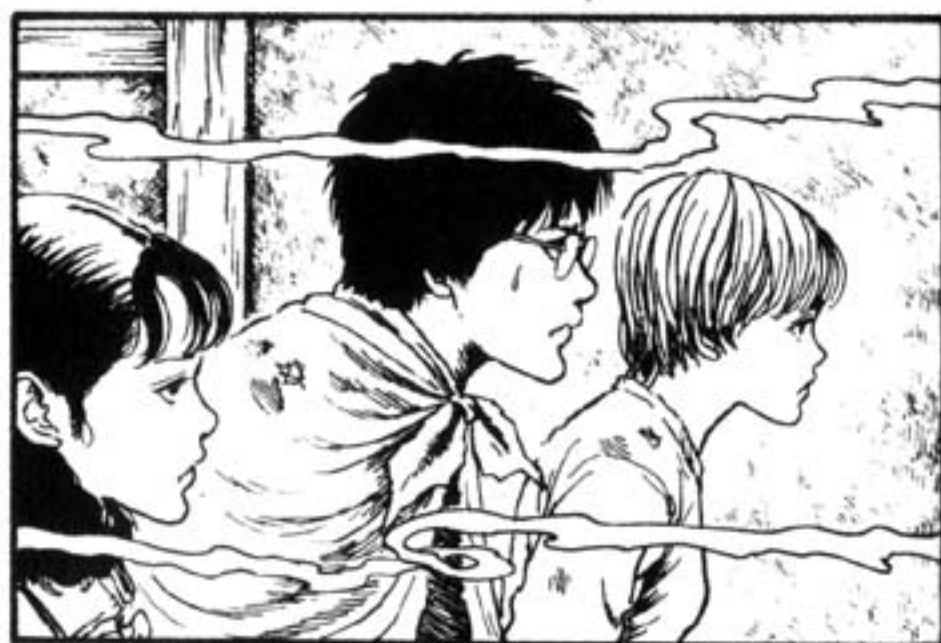
MBL  
MBL

RR  
RR

CRACK  
CRACK

MMBL  
MMBL

MURMUR  
MURMUR



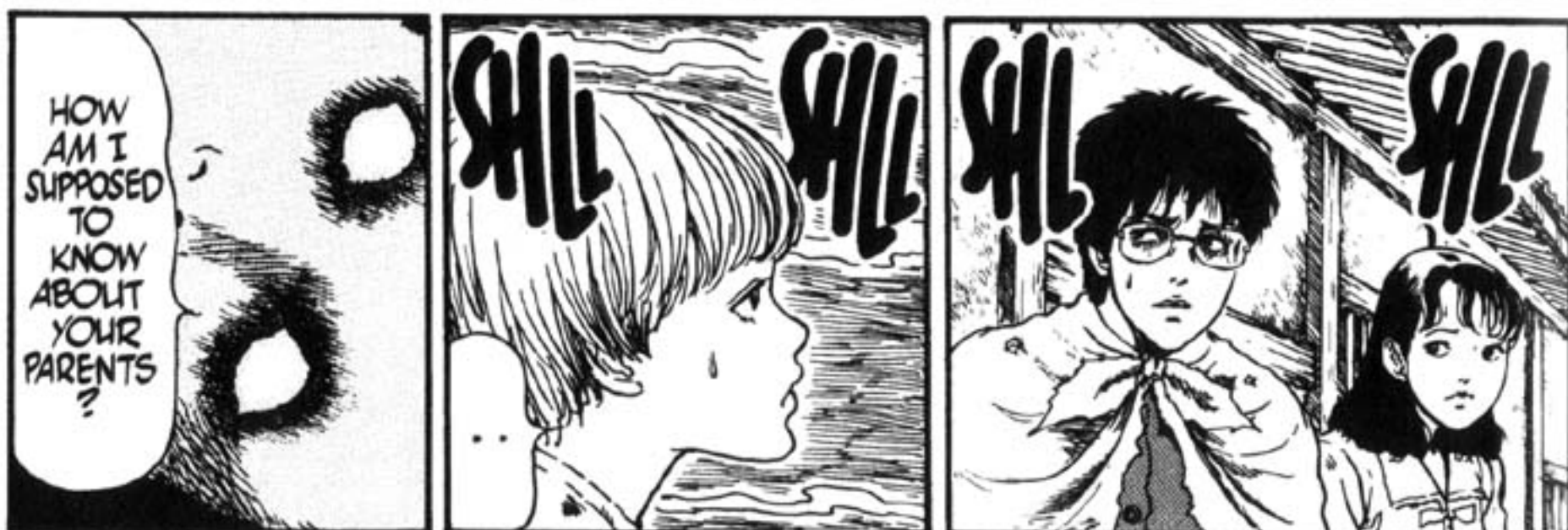
WHAT'S  
THAT  
SMELL  
?

IT'S  
COMING  
FROM  
UP  
AHEAD.

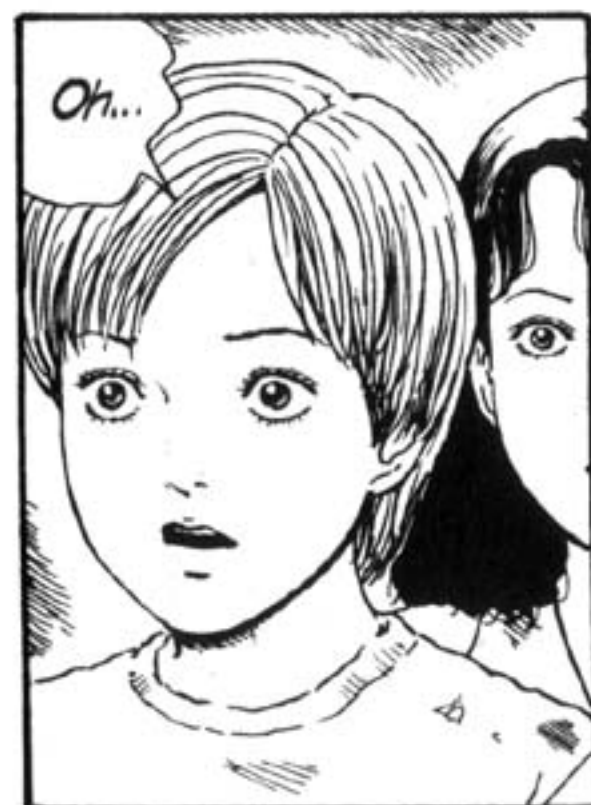
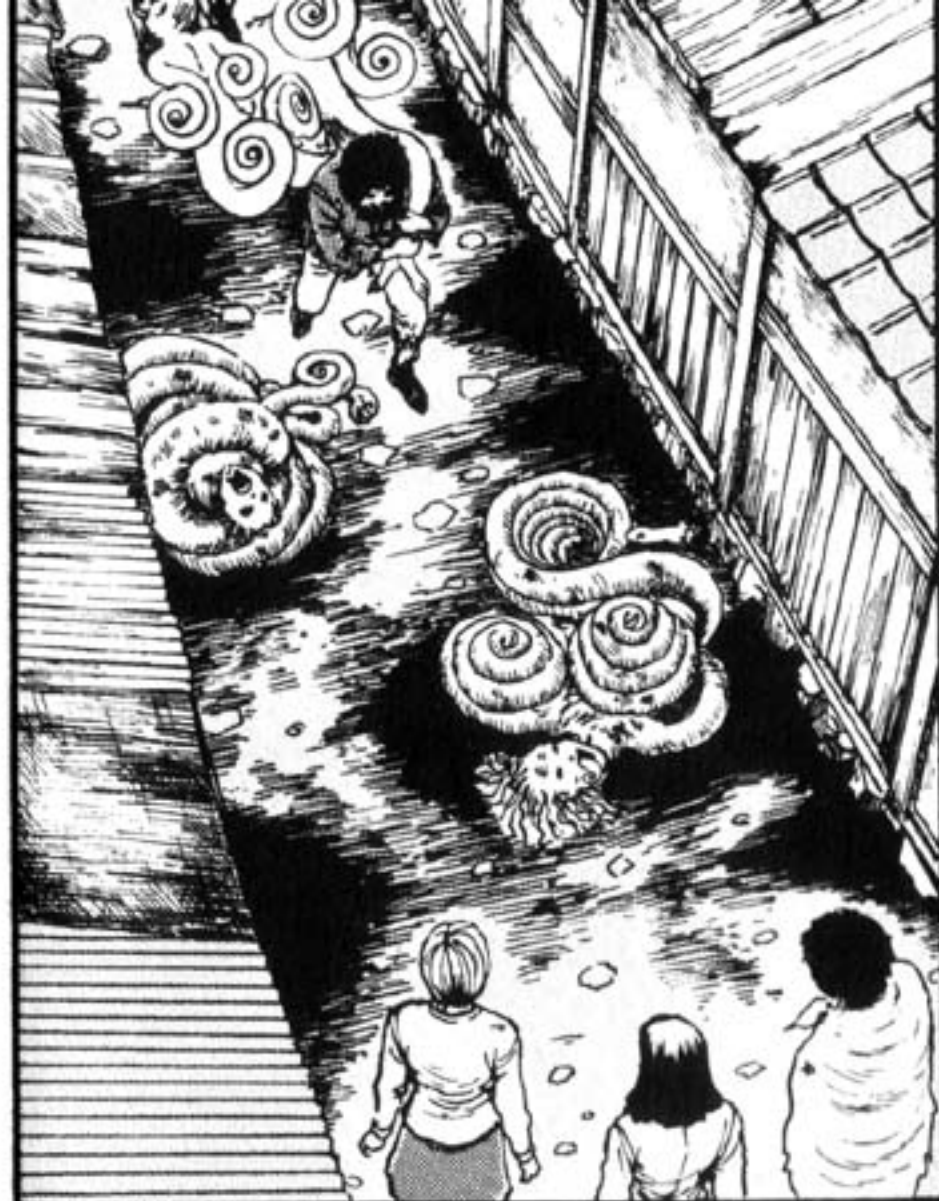




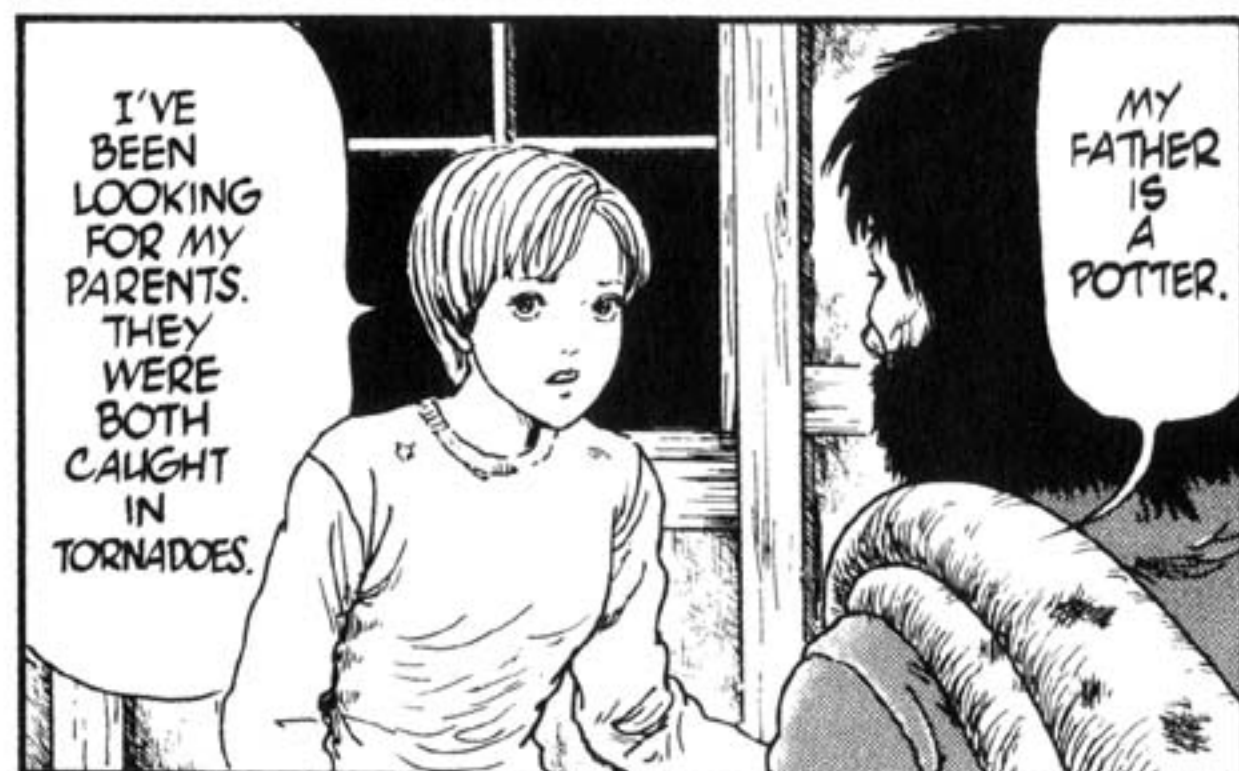
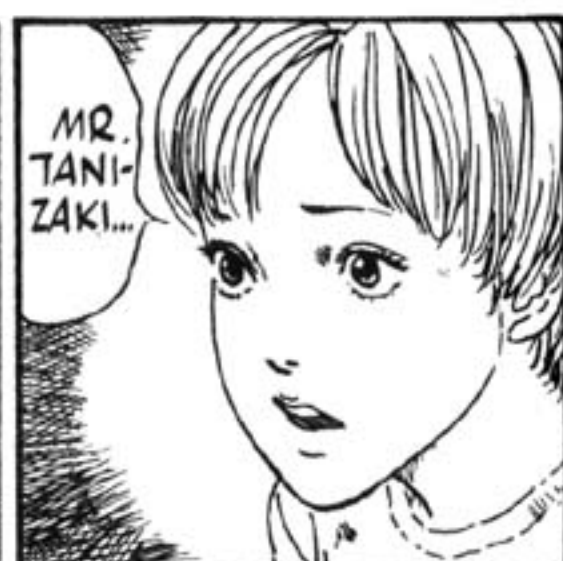
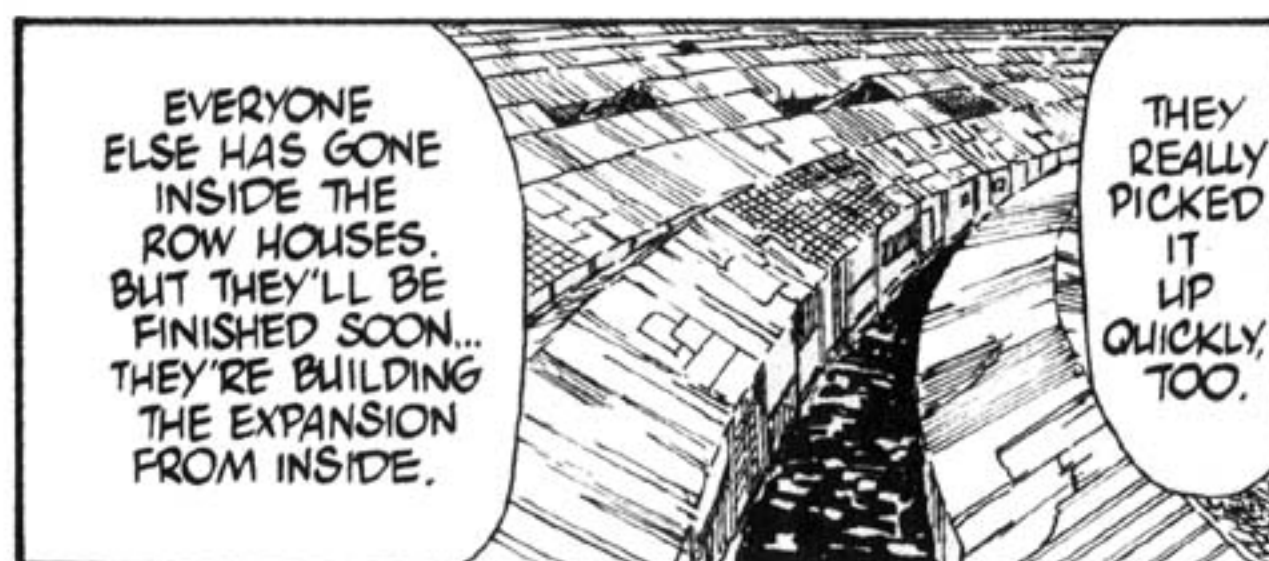
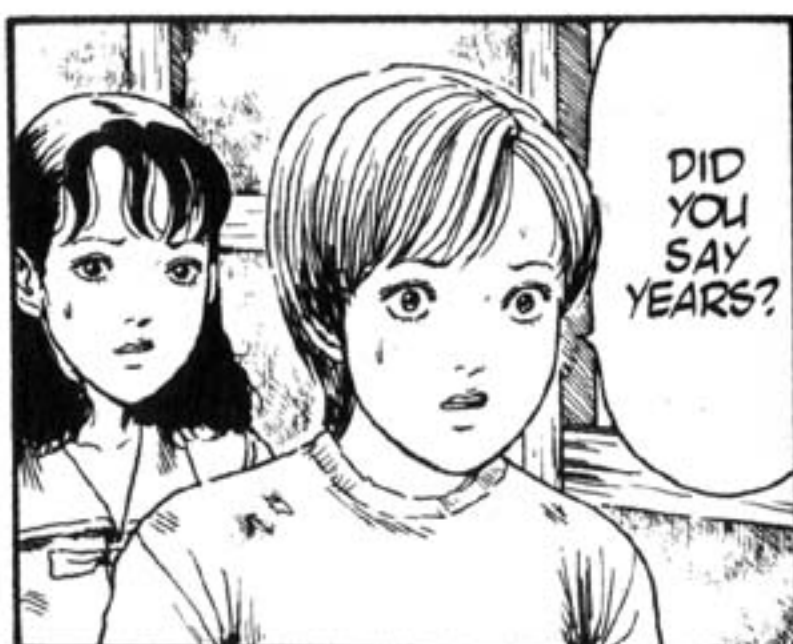














Oh...  
CERAMICS...  
YOU KNOW,  
I HEARD ABOUT  
A COUPLE  
THAT WAS STILL  
MAKING POTTERY  
BY DRAGONFLY  
POND.

WHAT?!

REALLY?!

Oh,  
YES.

I  
HAVEN'T  
SEEN  
THEM  
MYSELF,  
THOUGH.

I  
HEARD  
HE SAYS,  
"CERAMICS  
IS THE ART  
OF THE  
SPIRAL."

TH-  
THAT'S  
HIM!  
THAT'S  
HIM!

THEY'RE  
ALIVE!

THAT'S  
WONDERFUL,  
KIRIE!

THANK YOU  
SO MUCH,  
MR. TANIZAKI!  
I'M GOING  
THERE NOW.

YOU  
DO  
THAT.

BUT IT  
WON'T BE EASY  
TO GET THERE!  
THERE'S LOTS  
OF DEADFALLS  
FURTHER ON.

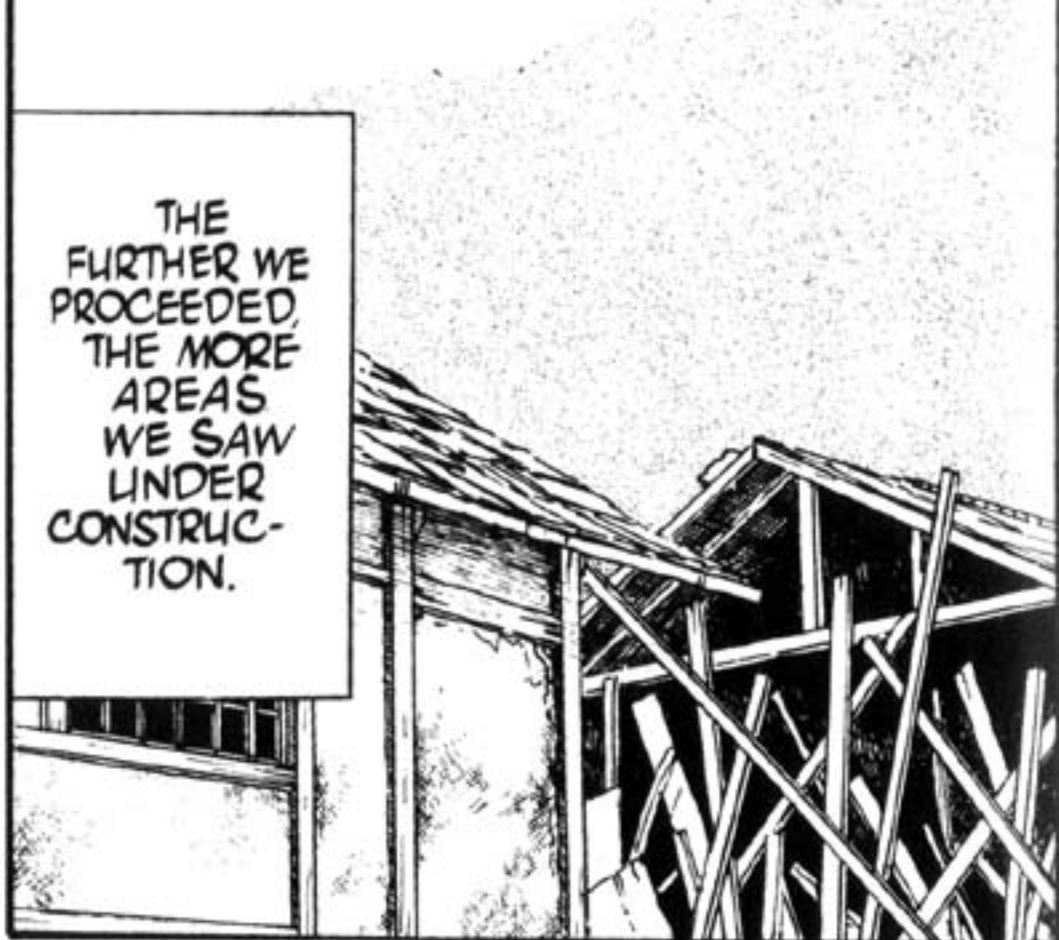
EVEN  
I'VE NEVER  
BEEN TO  
DRAGONFLY  
POND.





AS  
MR.  
TANIZAKI  
HAD  
SAID...

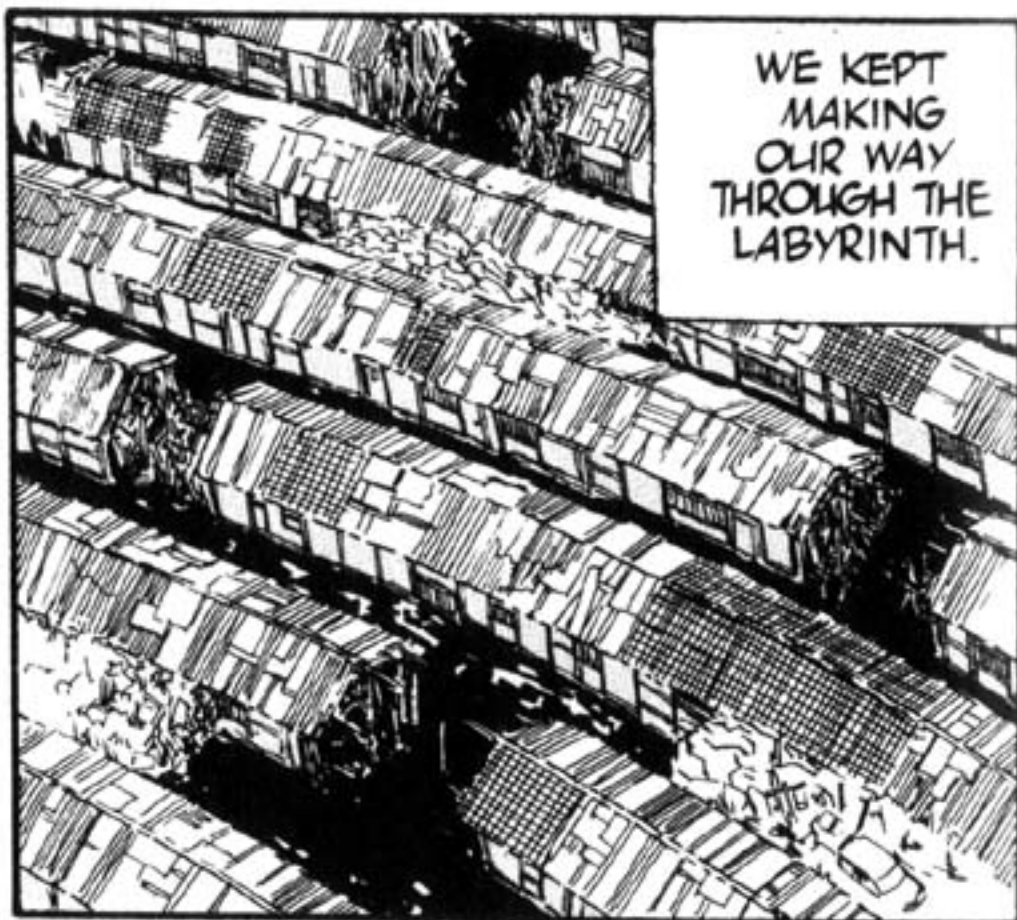
THE  
FURTHER WE  
PROCEEDED,  
THE MORE  
AREAS  
WE SAW  
UNDER  
CONSTRUC-  
TION.



MOST OF  
ALLEYS WERE BLOCKED  
BY HEAPS OF RUBBLE  
OVER WHICH WE WERE  
TOO EXHAUSTED TO CLIMB.



WE KEPT  
MAKING  
OUR WAY  
THROUGH THE  
LABYRINTH.



ANOTHER  
DEAD  
END.



I  
WONDER  
WHERE  
WE ARE?

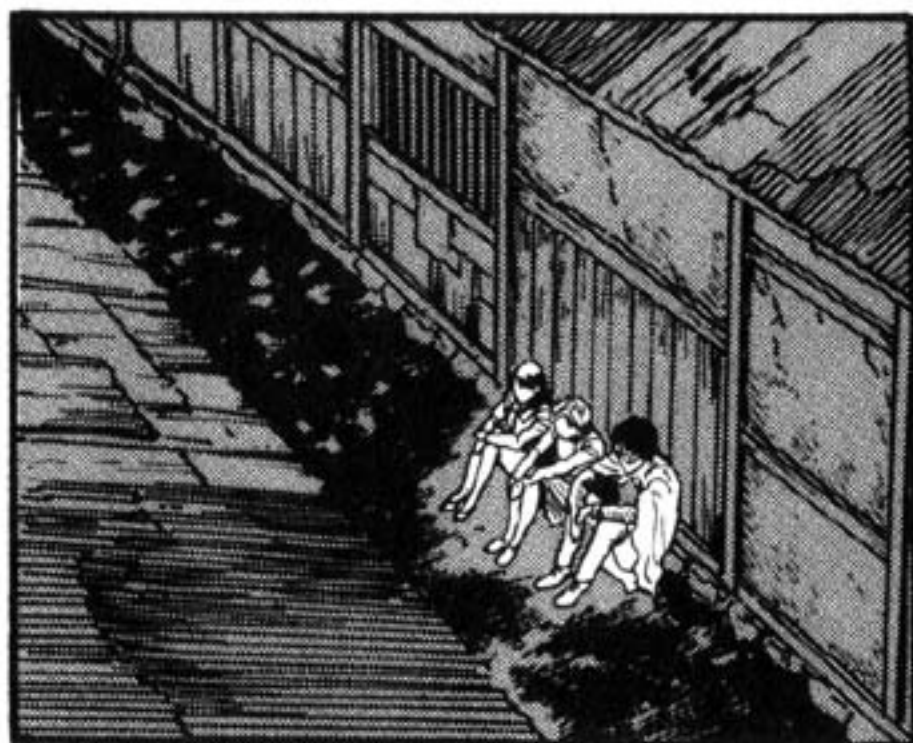
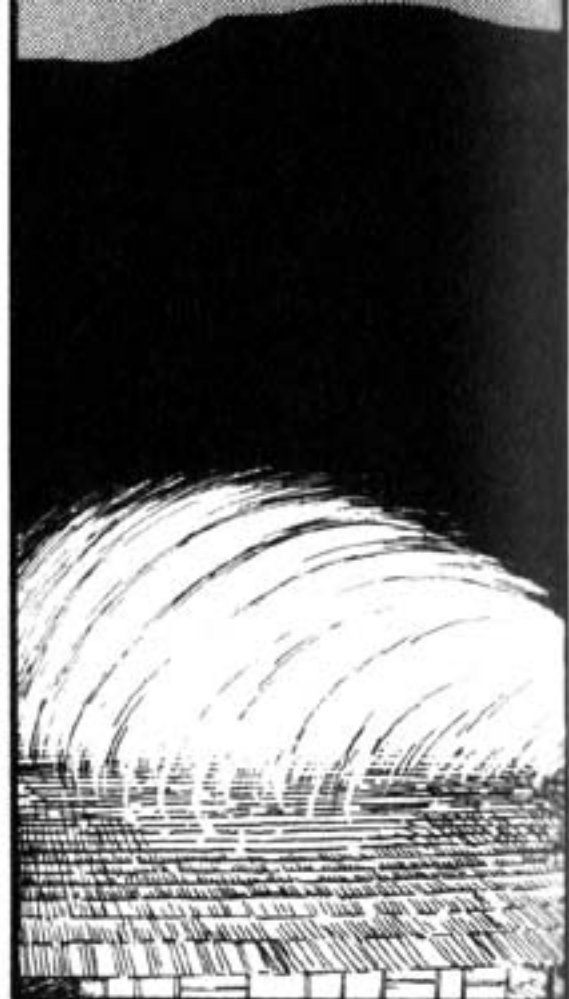
THERE'S  
AN OPENING  
THIS  
WAY.











BUT IF  
SHUICHI IS  
RIGHT ABOUT THIS  
TOWN BEING  
BASED ON A  
TOWN FROM  
THE PAST...

WHY  
WAS IT  
BUILT  
LIKE THIS  
IN THE  
FIRST  
PLACE?



WELL,  
WE DON'T  
EVEN  
HAVE  
ANY  
IDEA...

WHY  
THEY'RE  
REBUILDING  
IT  
LIKE  
THIS.



MAYBE...



MAYBE  
IT'S BEEN  
REPEATED OVER  
AND OVER  
SINCE ANCIENT  
TIMES.



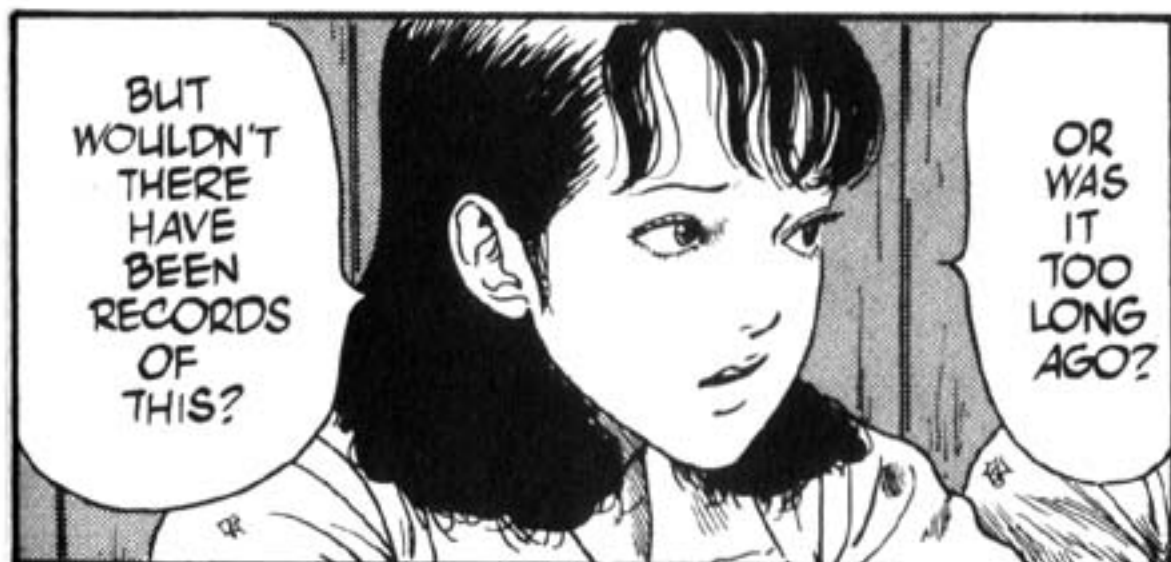
WHAT  
?

EVERY  
CENTURY,  
OR EVERY  
FEW CENTURIES,  
THE SPIRAL  
COMES  
TO HAUNT  
THIS  
TOWN...

AND  
EVERY TIME  
IT DOES, THE  
INHABITANTS  
BUILD THEIR  
TOWN IN THIS  
SHAPE.



BUT  
WOULDN'T  
THERE  
HAVE  
BEEN  
RECORDS  
OF  
THIS?



OR  
WAS  
IT  
TOO  
LONG  
AGO?



NO...

THE  
OLD HOUSES  
ARE MADE OF  
WOOD SO  
THEY CAN'T  
BE THAT  
ANCIENT.

AND  
YET THE  
STORY  
WAS NEVER  
PASSED  
ON.



MAYBE  
ALL  
THE  
RECOLLECTIONS  
WERE  
LOST.



LOST  
?

FOR  
EXAMPLE...  
MAYBE EVERY  
PERSON WHO  
COULD HAVE  
TOLD THE  
STORY  
VANISHED.







AS WE  
WANDERED  
THROUGH THE  
LABYRINTH,  
WE LOST  
TRACK OF  
WHICH WAY  
WE WERE  
GOING.



WHERE  
ARE  
WE  
NOW?

I  
CAN'T DO  
THIS  
ANYMORE  
...I CAN'T  
WALK...



HEY.

LOOK  
UP  
THERE







SMOKE

THEY'RE  
PROBABLY  
CREMATING  
A  
CORPSE  
SOME-  
WHERE.



THE  
SMOKE IS  
SPIRALING  
DOWN TO  
DRAGONFLY  
POND.

THE  
POND'S  
THAT  
WAY.



THE  
SMOKE  
WILL BE  
OUR  
GUIDE.



HURRY...  
BEFORE IT  
DISAPPEARS  
!!



uff

hff



DAMN  
IT. ANOTHER  
DEAD  
END.





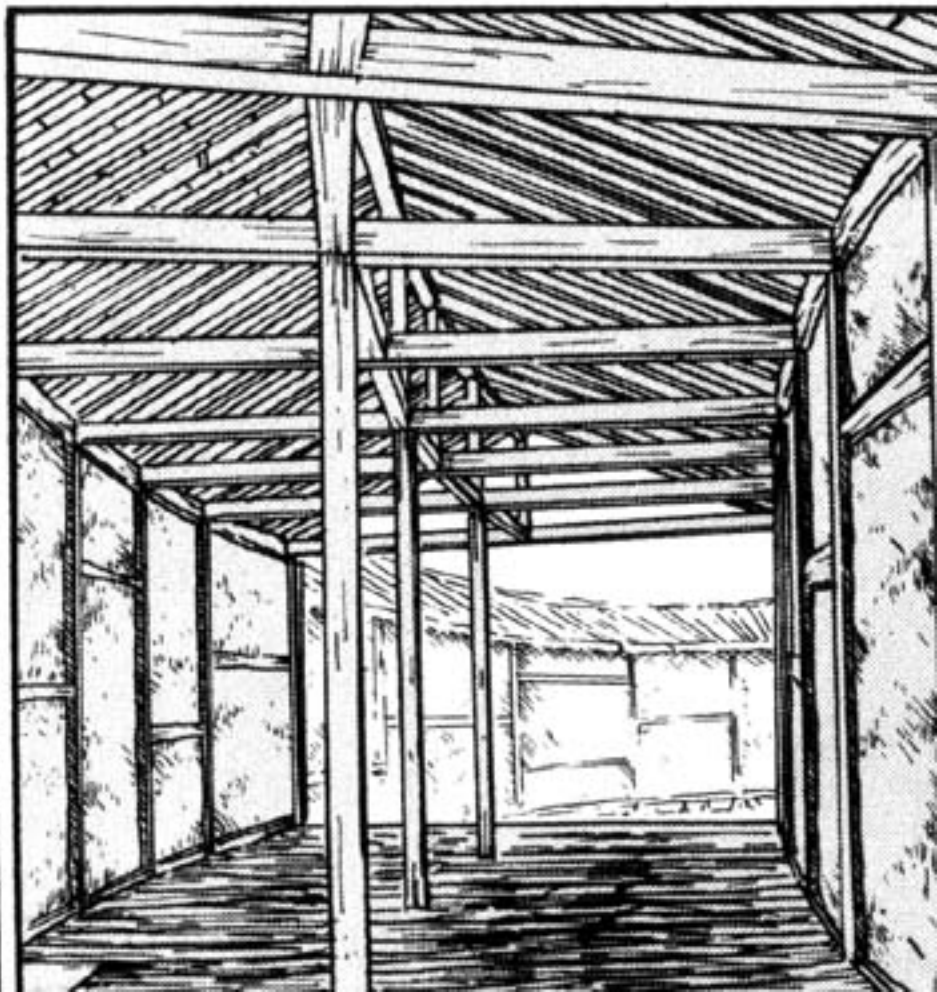
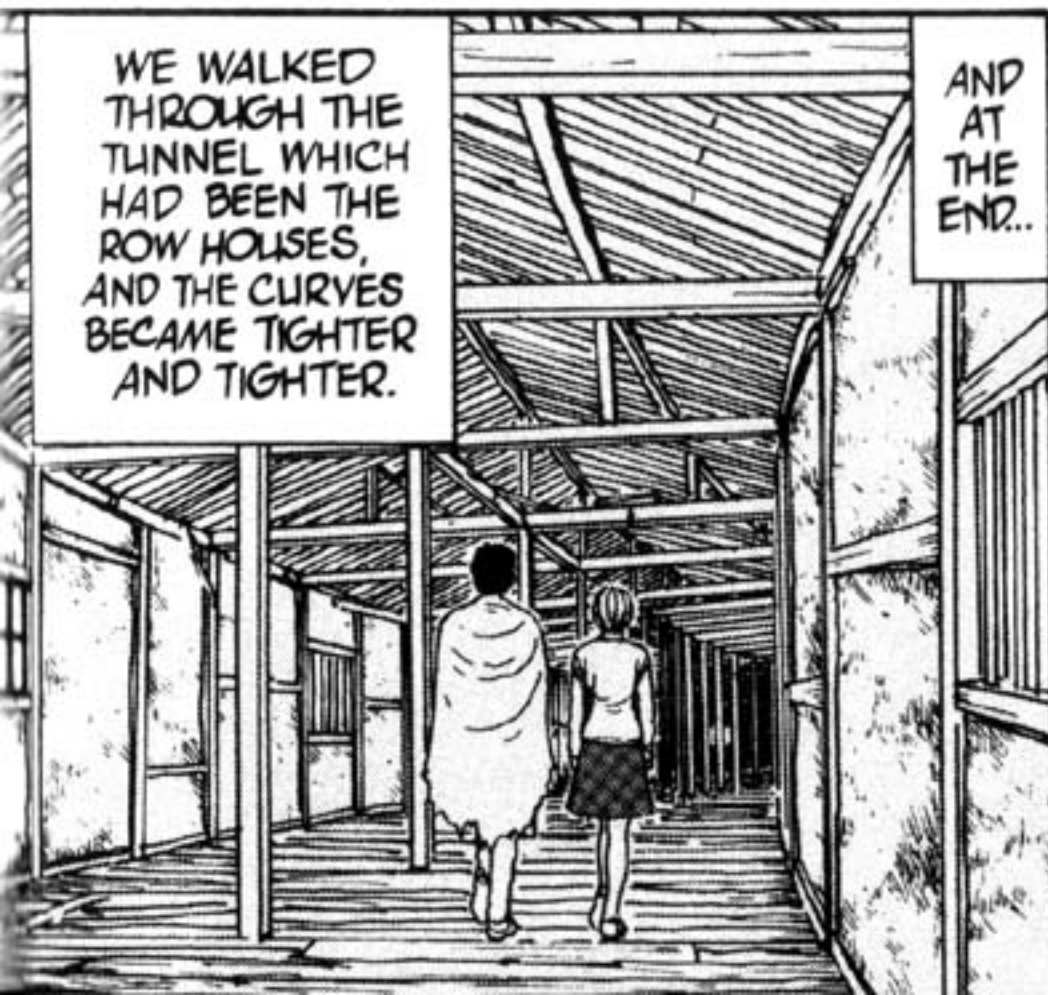
















WH-  
WHAT  
IS  
THIS?!



THIS MUST  
HAVE BEEN  
DRAGONFLY  
POND.

THE  
WATER'S  
RECEDED  
...



WHAT  
ABOUT MY  
MOTHER  
AND  
FATHER?

I THOUGHT  
THEY WERE  
MAKING  
POTTERY  
HERE.





KIRIE  
...

IF  
THEY  
WERE HERE  
ONCE,  
THEY'RE  
NOT HERE  
NOW.



LOOK DOWN THERE.  
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS  
HERE ALL THIS TIME,  
THIS WELL AT THE BOTTOM  
OF THE POND?

SOMEONE  
BUILT  
THESE  
SPIRAL  
STAIRS.  
THEY LOOK  
LIKE  
ANCIENT  
RUINS.



THE  
PEOPLE  
IN THE  
ROW  
HOUSES  
...

...MUST  
HAVE  
FALLEN  
DOWN  
THIS  
HOLE  
ALL  
AT  
ONCE.



WHEN  
WAS IT  
BUILT? WHO  
BUILT IT?  
WHY?

HOW  
FAR  
DOWN  
DOES  
IT GO?

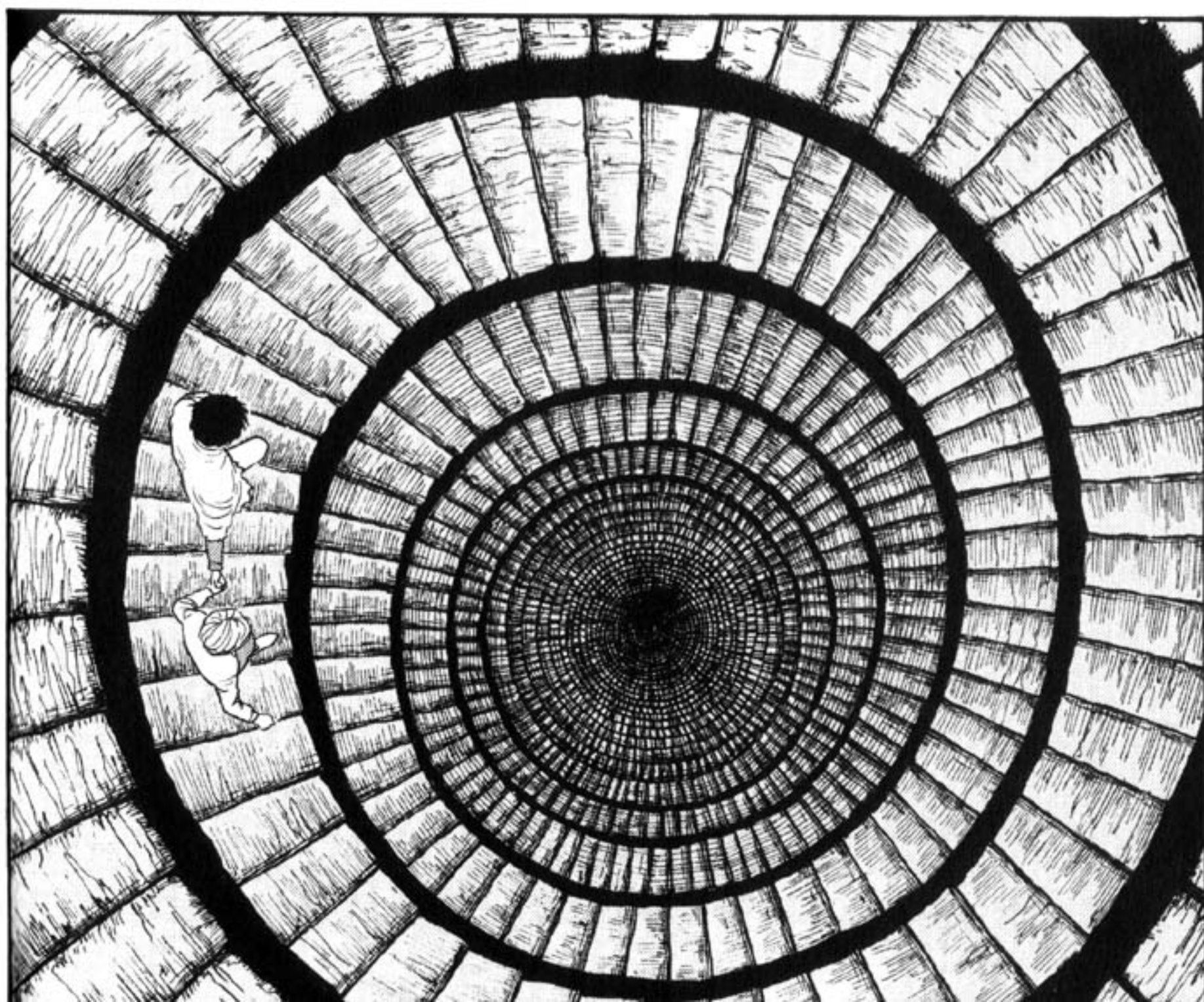
THE  
CAUSE  
OF THE  
SPIRAL  
CURSE  
HAUNTING  
THIS  
TOWN  
MAY BE  
HIDDEN  
DOWN  
BELOW...













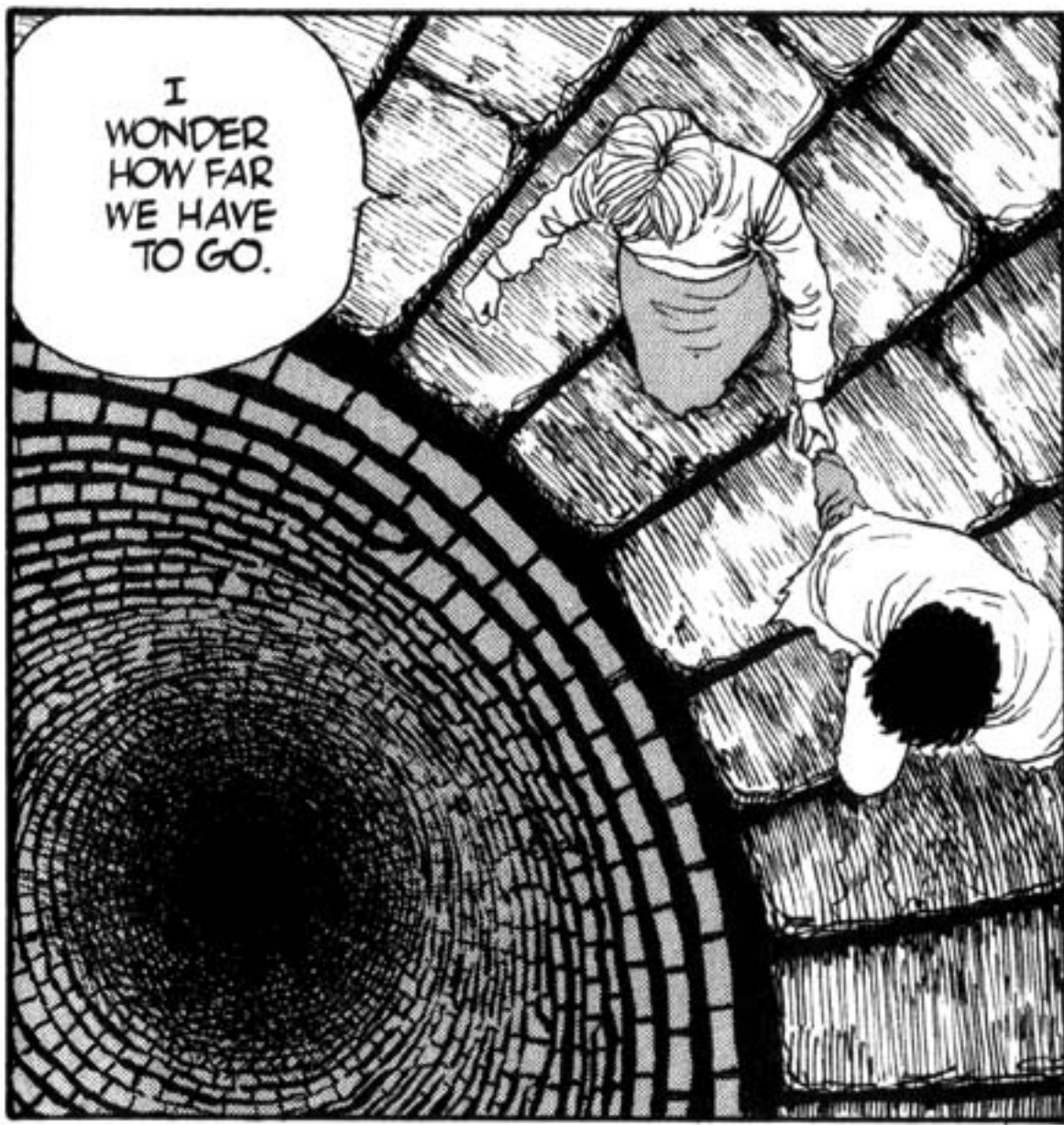
CHAPTER

19

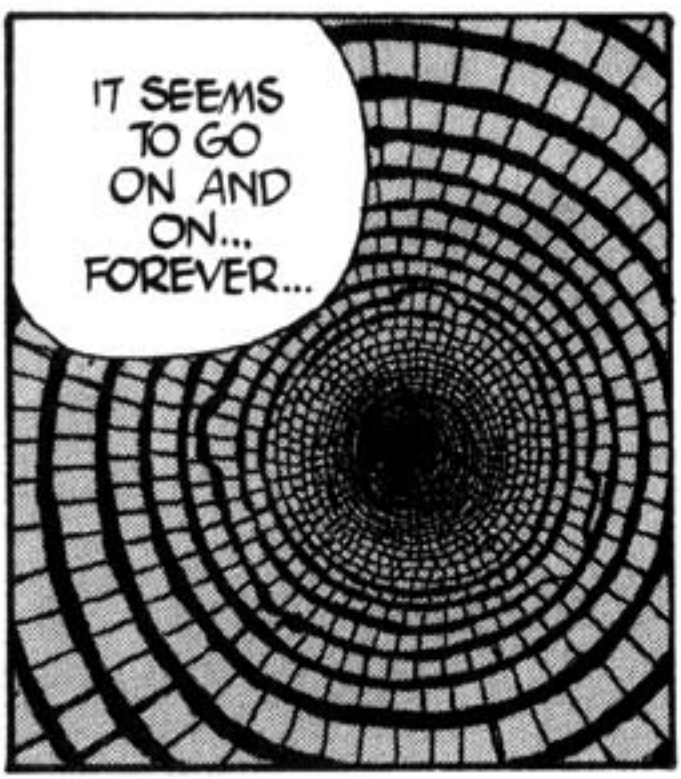
COMPLETION







I  
WONDER  
HOW FAR  
WE HAVE  
TO GO.



IT SEEMS  
TO GO  
ON AND  
ON...  
FOREVER...



S  
W  
A  
Y



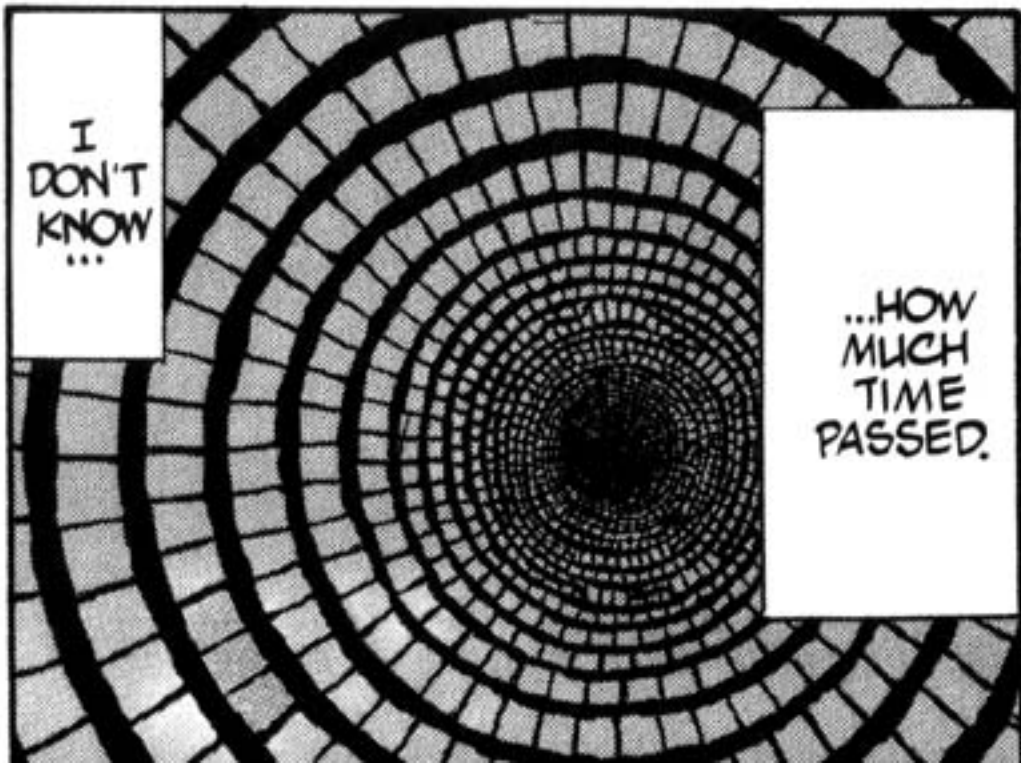
!

SWAY



KIRIE!  
BE  
CAREFUL!

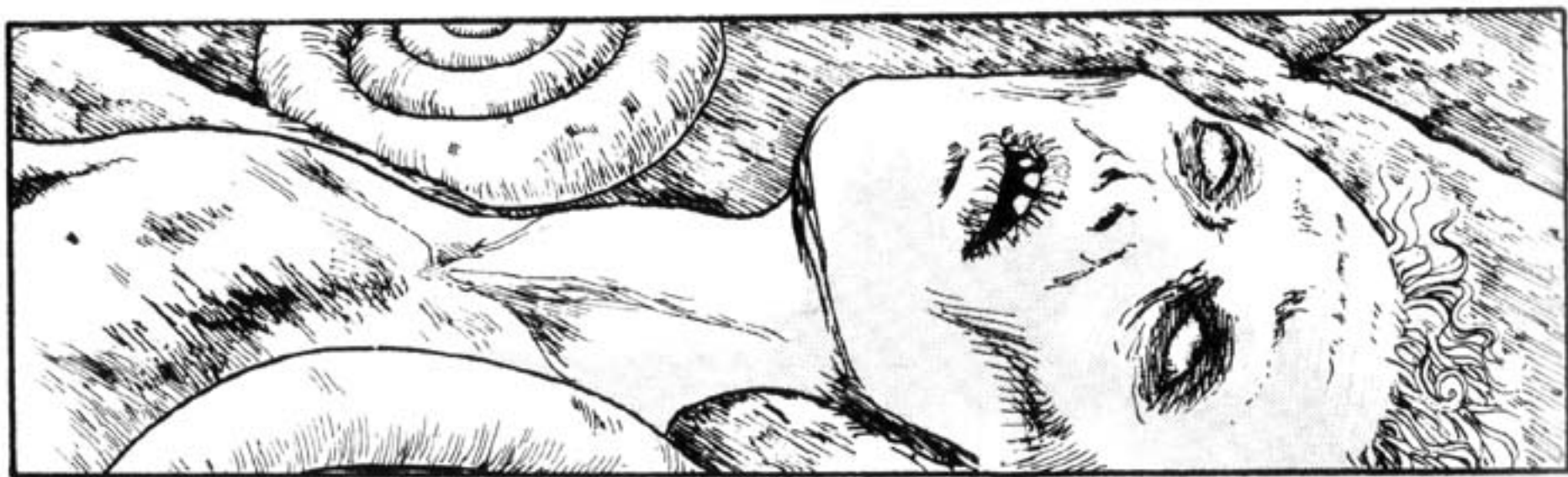
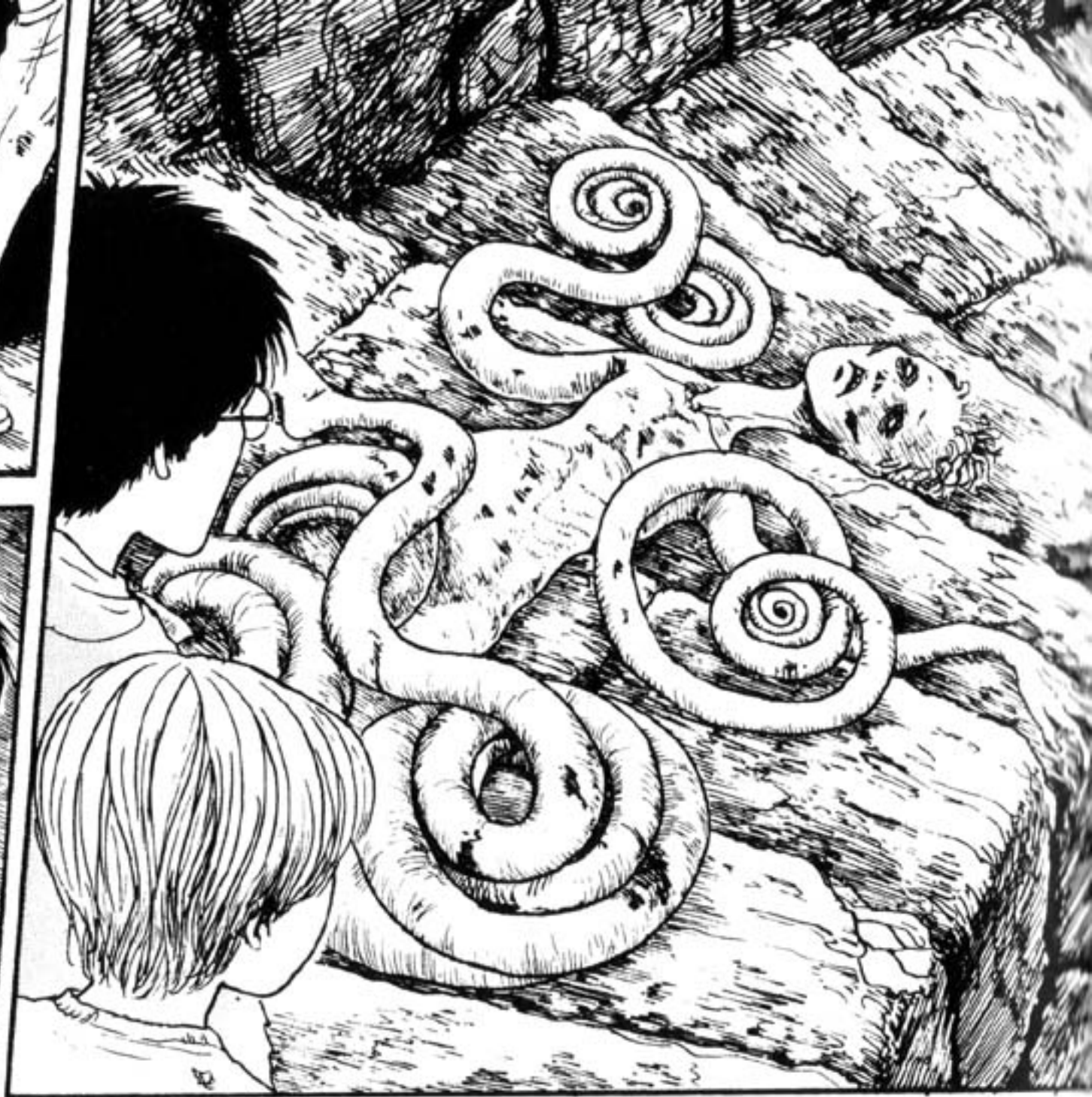
DON'T  
LOOK  
DOWN  
THERE!



I  
DON'T  
KNOW  
...

...HOW  
MUCH  
TIME  
PASSED.





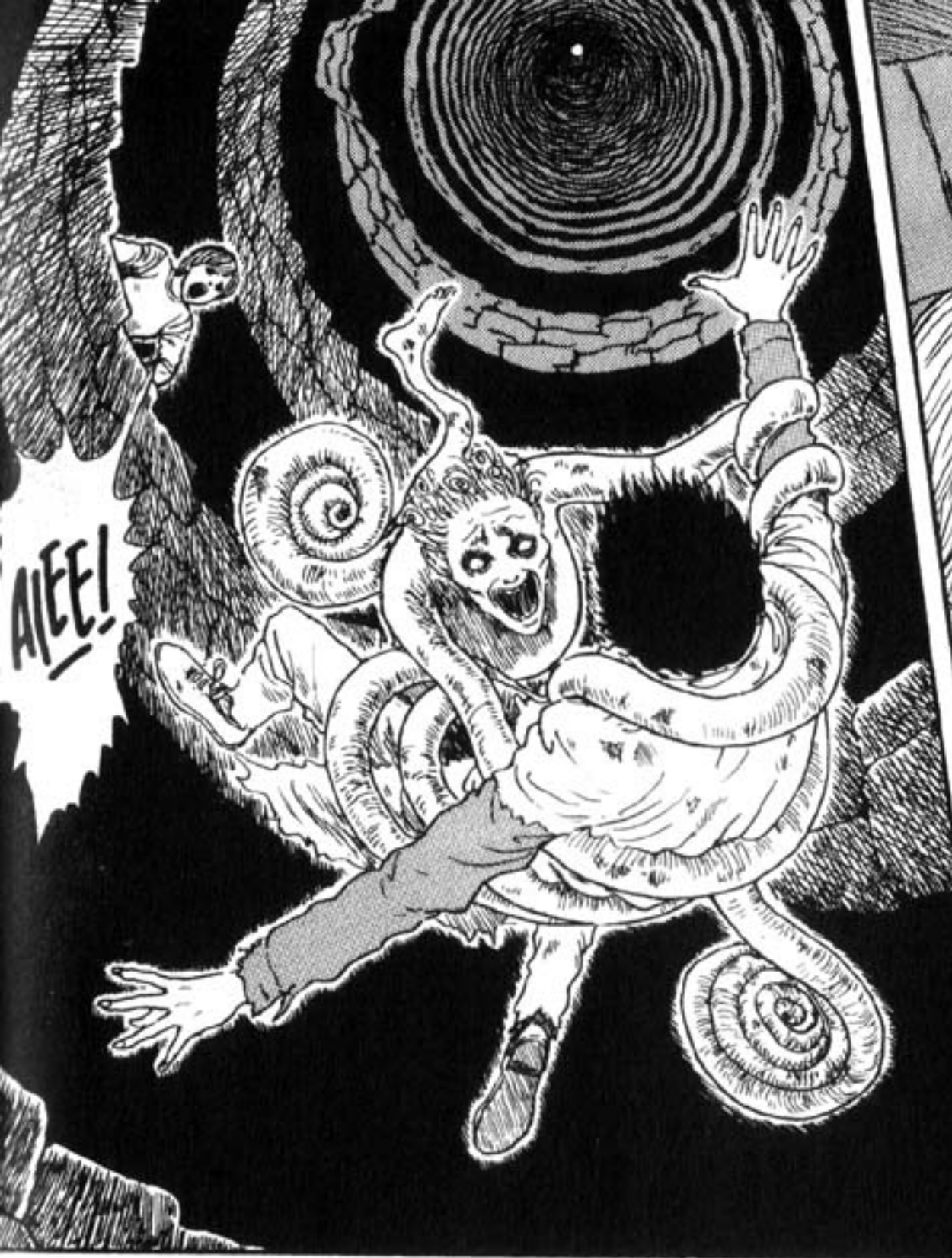




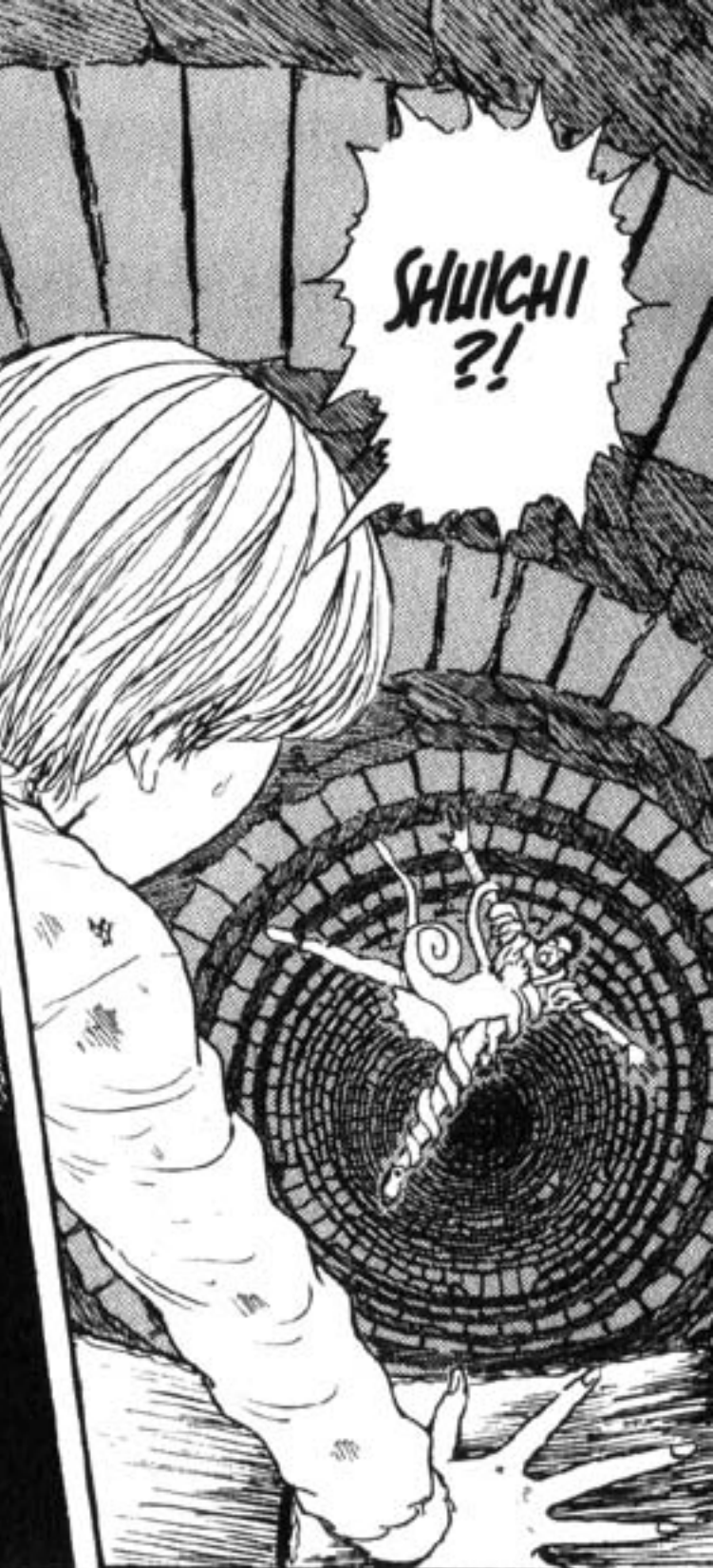




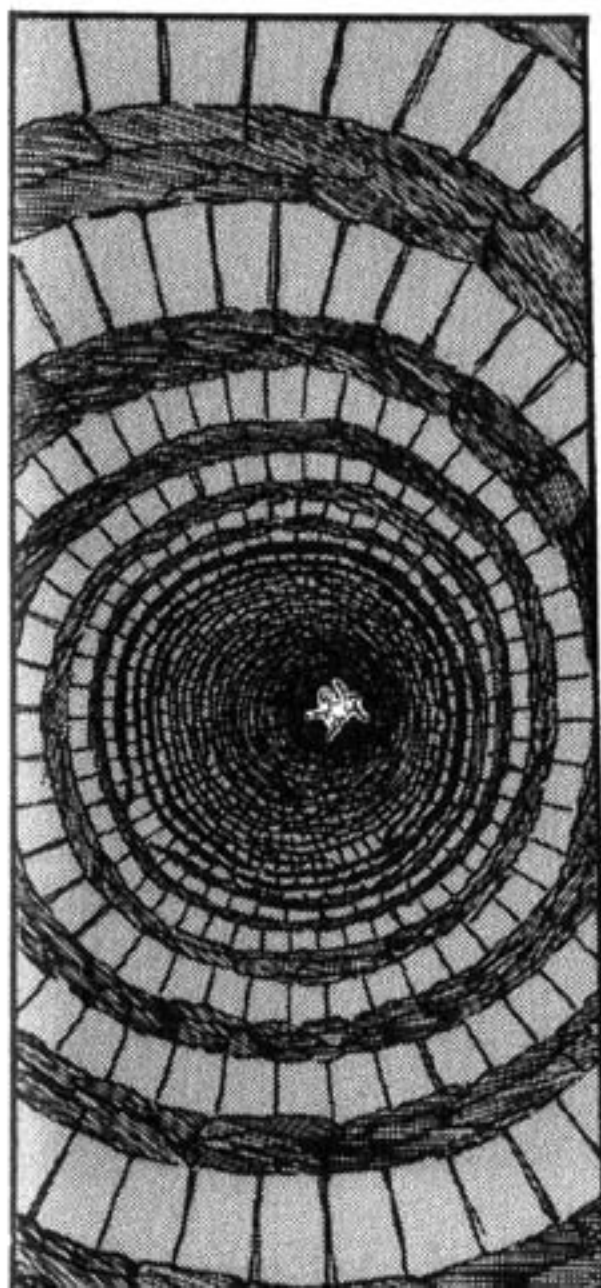




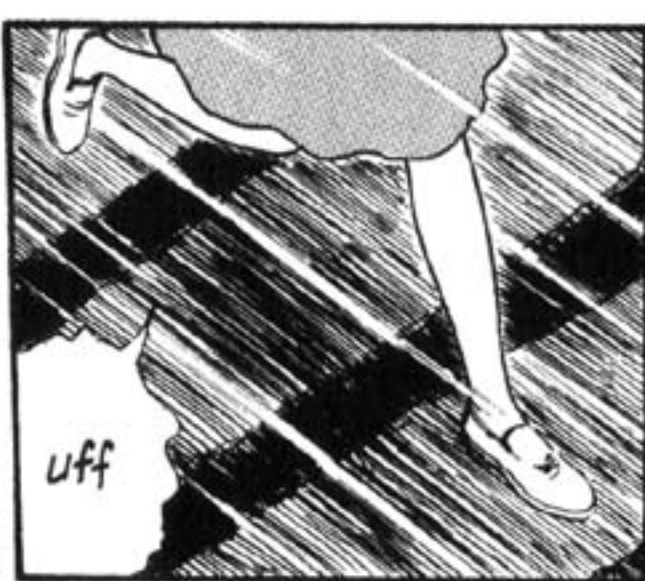
AIEE!



SHUICHI  
?!



SHUICHI  
!

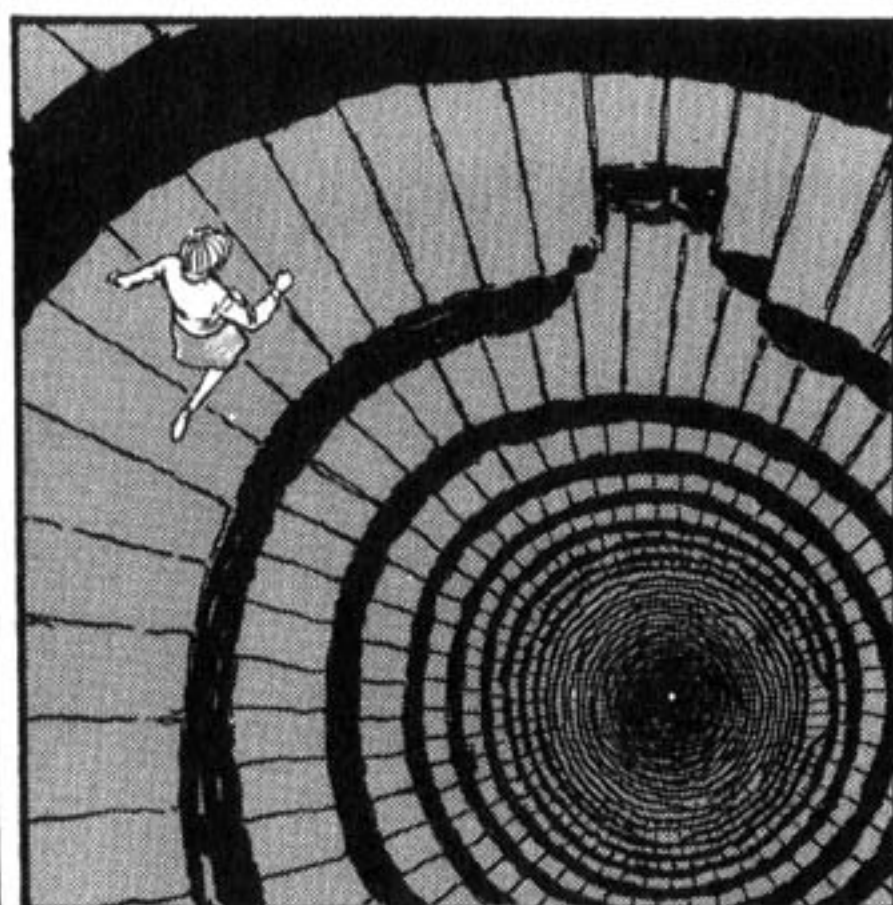
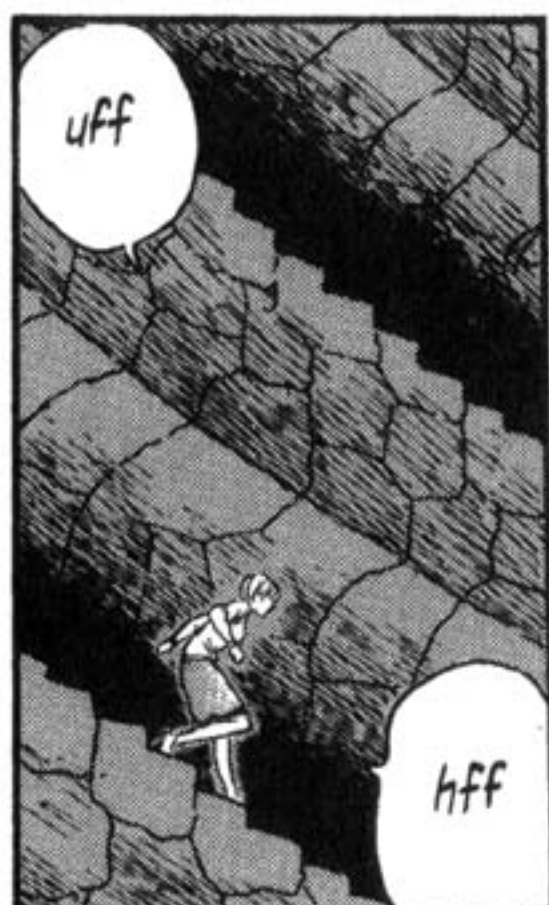


uff

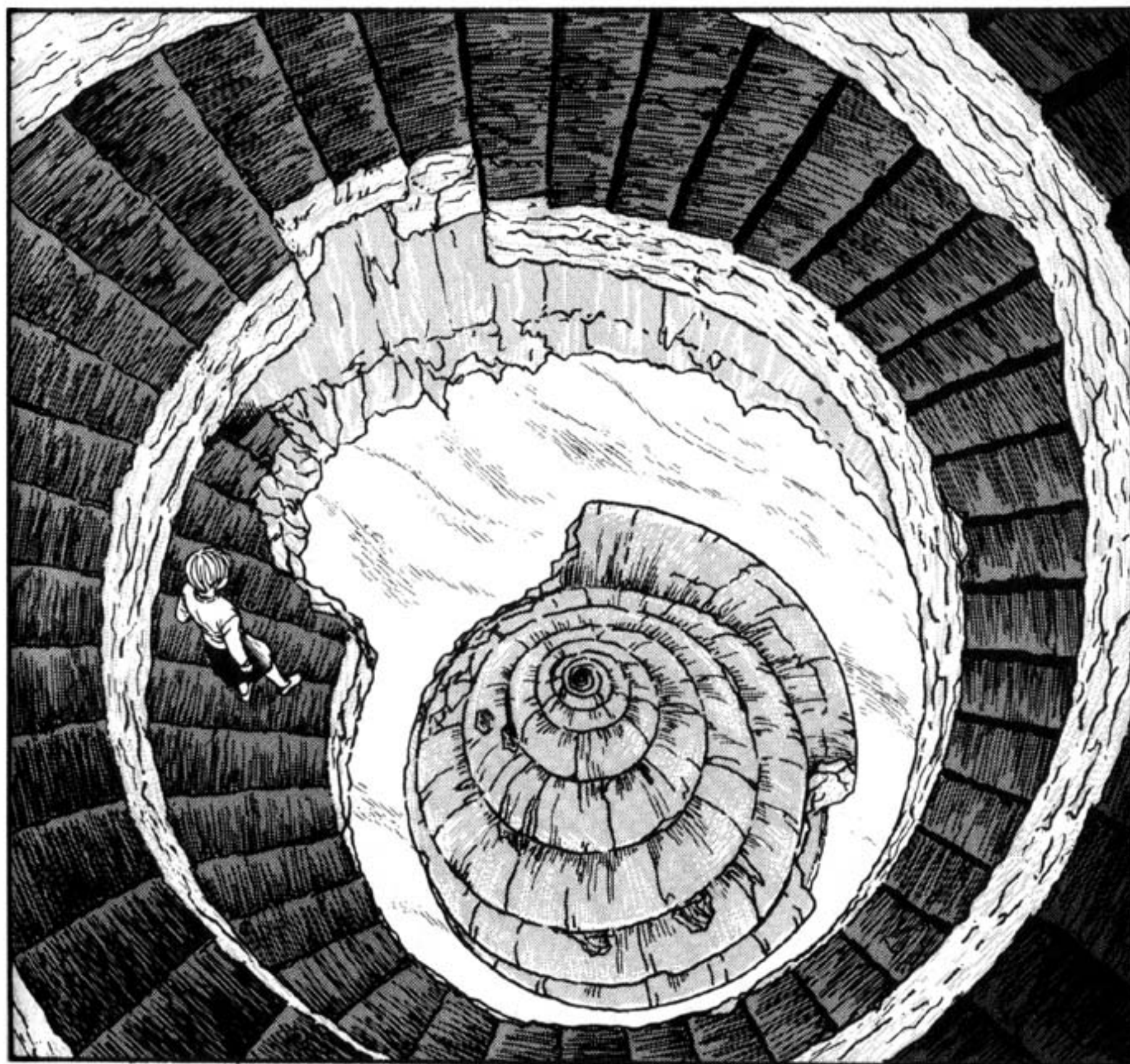


hff

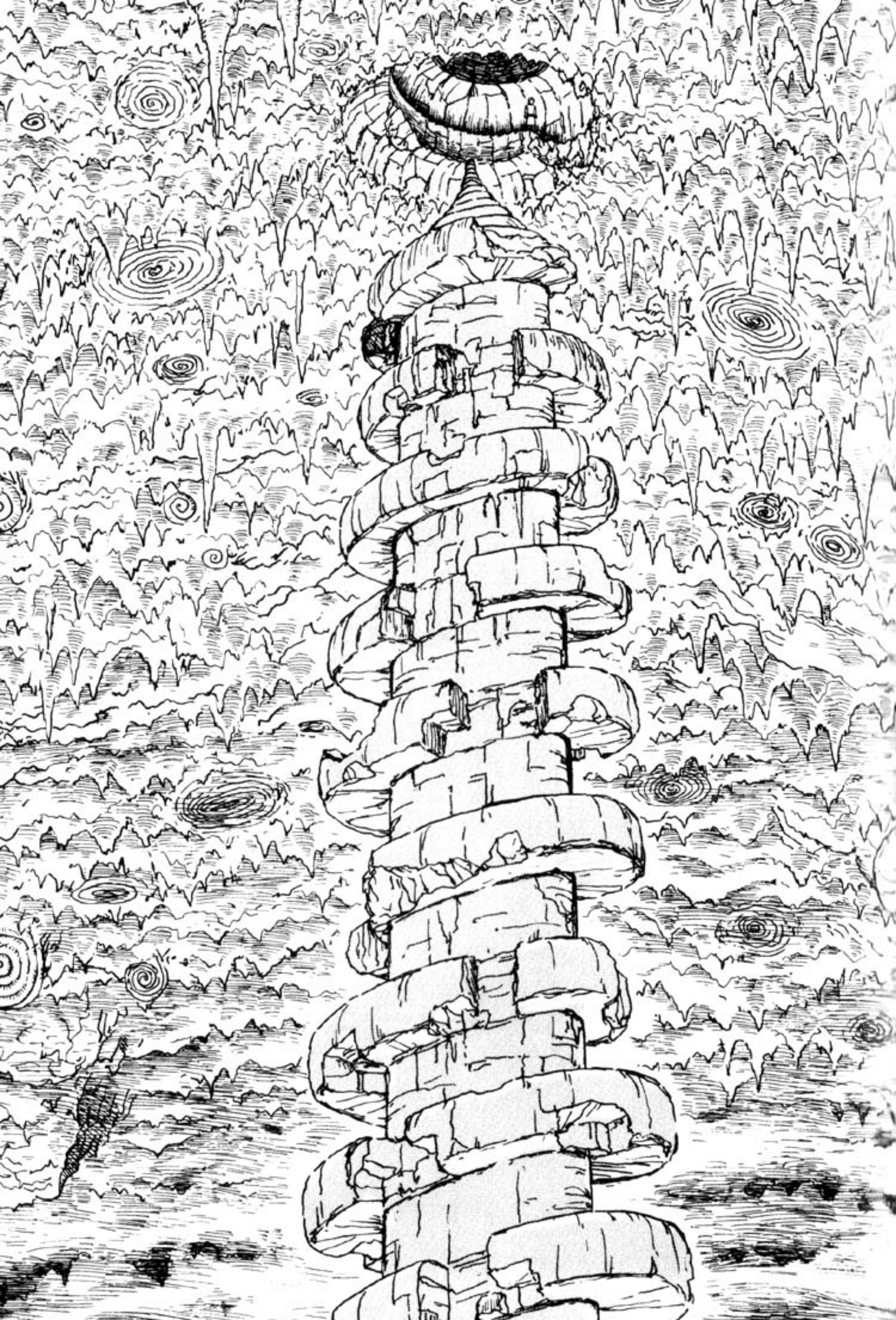












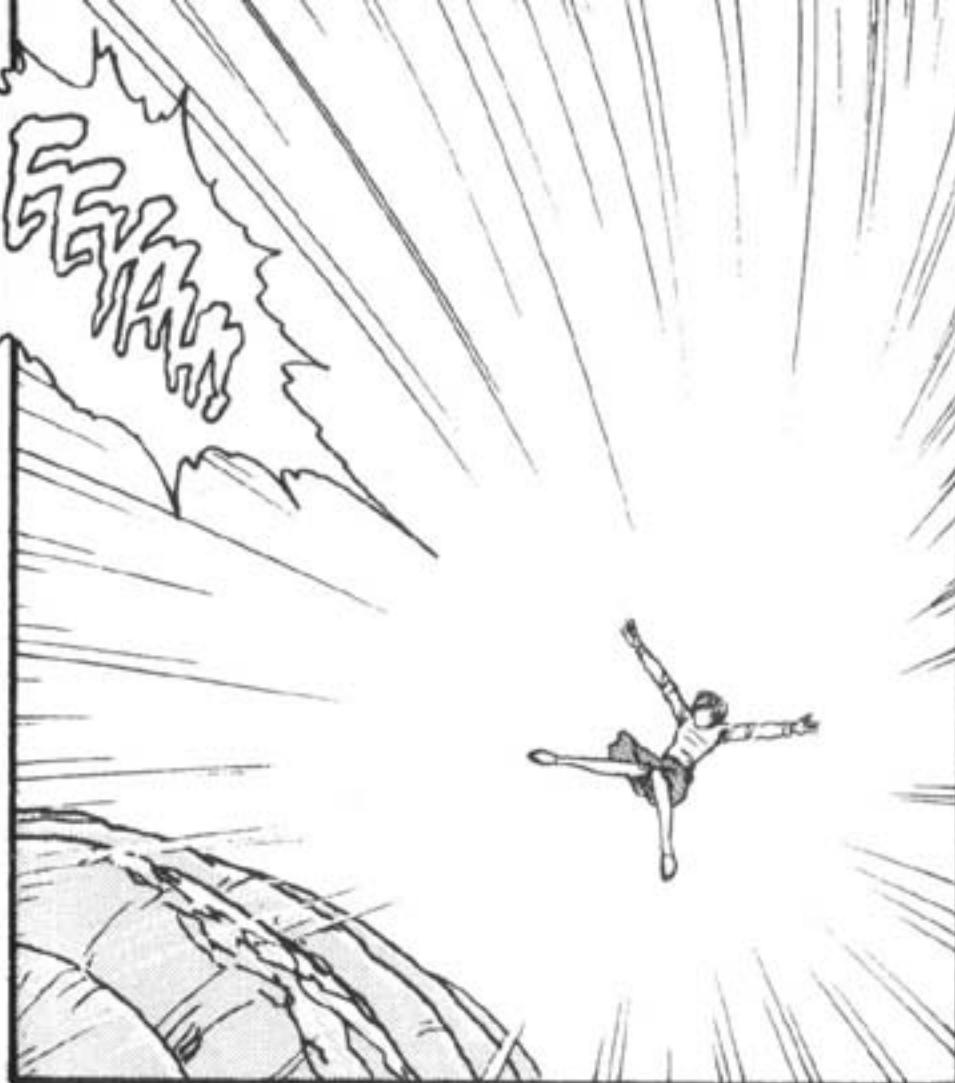












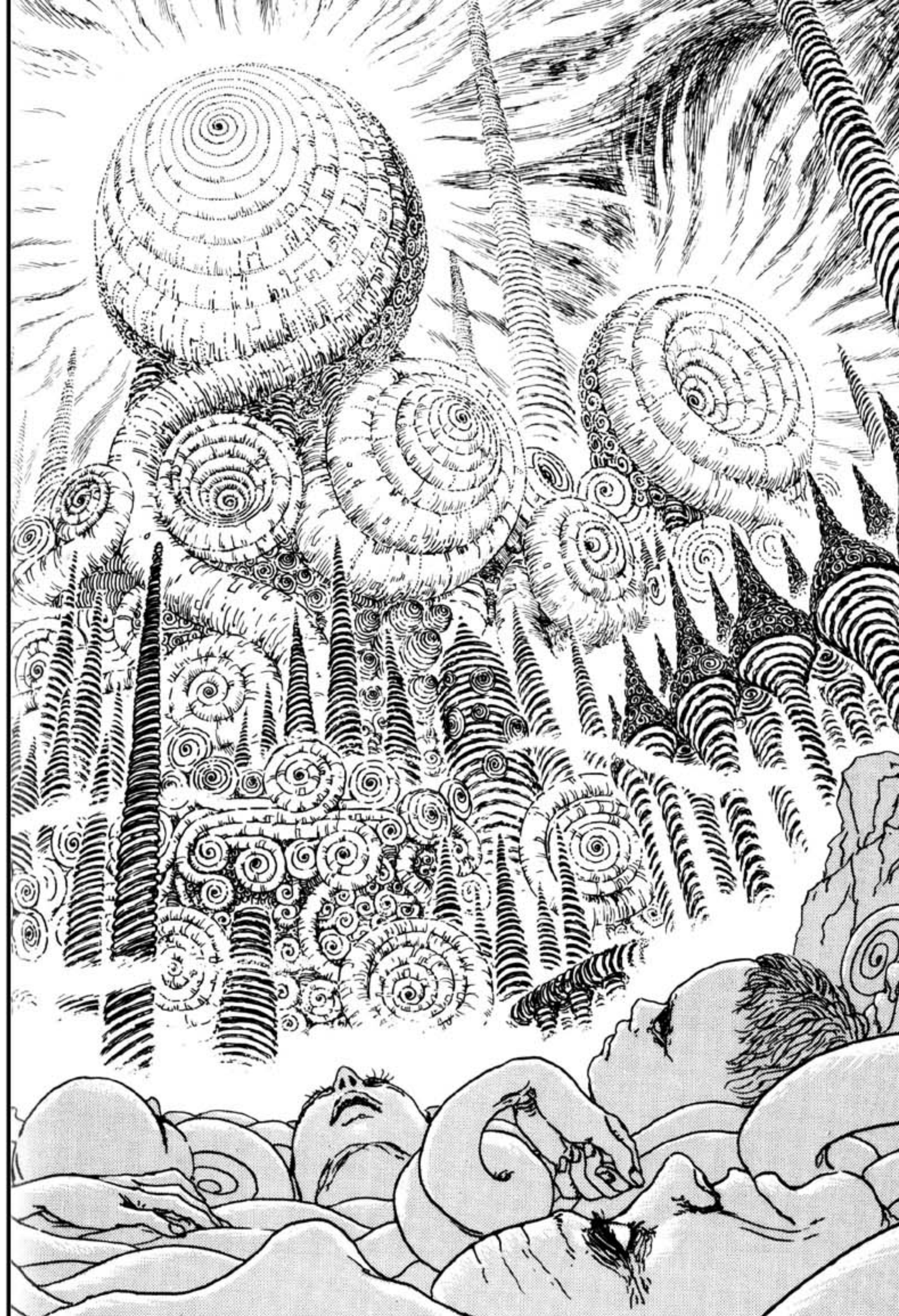
I  
THOUGHT  
I WAS  
GOING  
TO DIE.



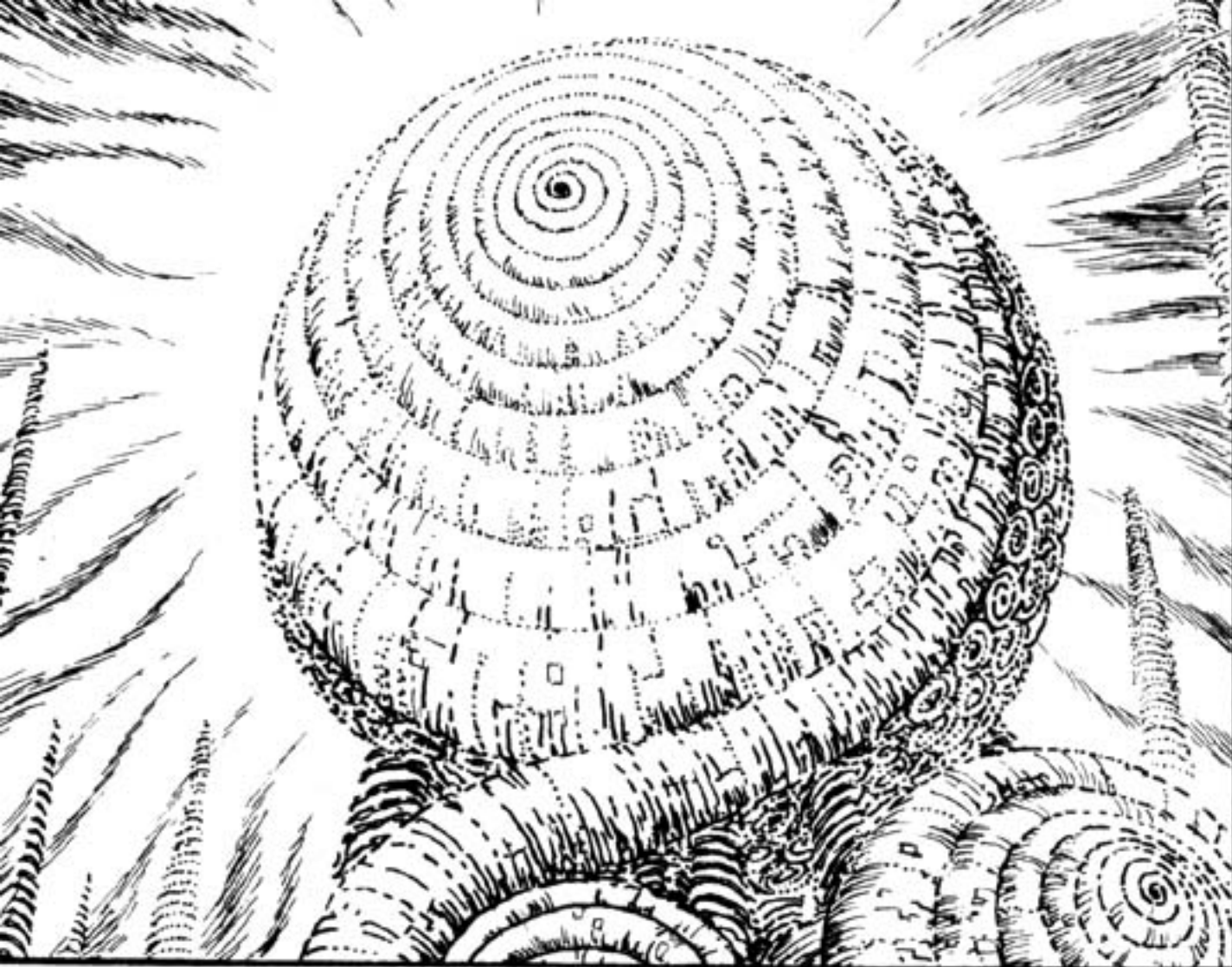
BUT  
FOR SOME  
REASON,  
MY BODY  
FELL  
SLOWLY,  
AS IF A  
GREAT  
WHIRLWIND  
WERE  
CARRYING  
ME DOWN.



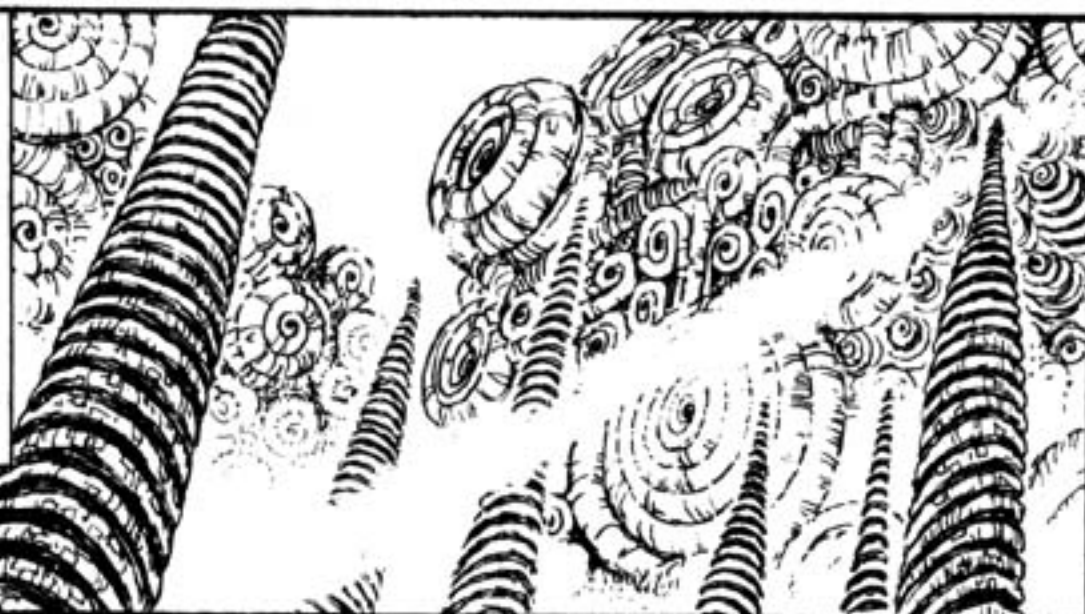








IT WAS  
A CITY OF  
SPIRALS.  
UNLIKE  
ANYTHING  
I HAD EVER  
SEEN.



THE  
ANCIENT  
RUINS  
EMITTED A  
MESMERIZING  
LIGHT.

THE FLOOR  
WAS MADE OF THE  
COUNTLESS PEOPLE  
WHO HAD POURED  
FROM KURÖZU-CHO  
ABOVE.



ALL  
OF THEM  
WERE STARING  
AT THE  
LIGHT.

WHERE IS  
SHUICHI  
?



HE  
SHOULD  
HAVE FALLEN  
HERE  
NEAR ME!





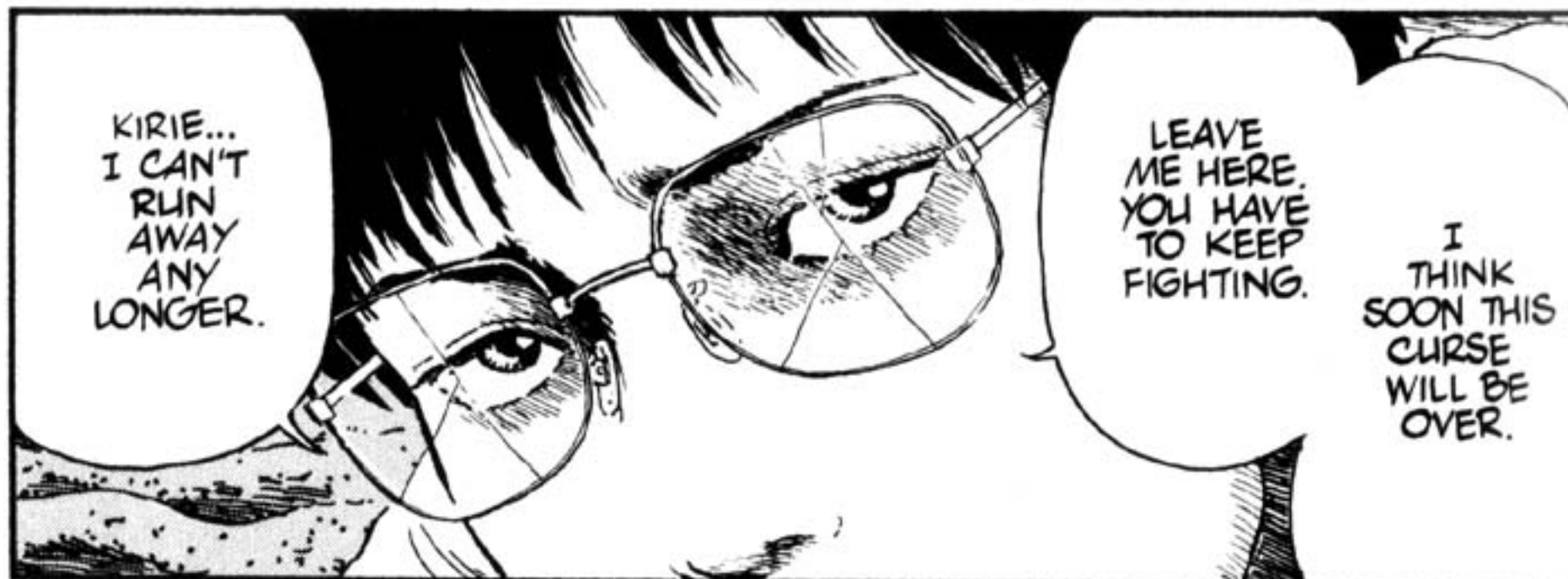




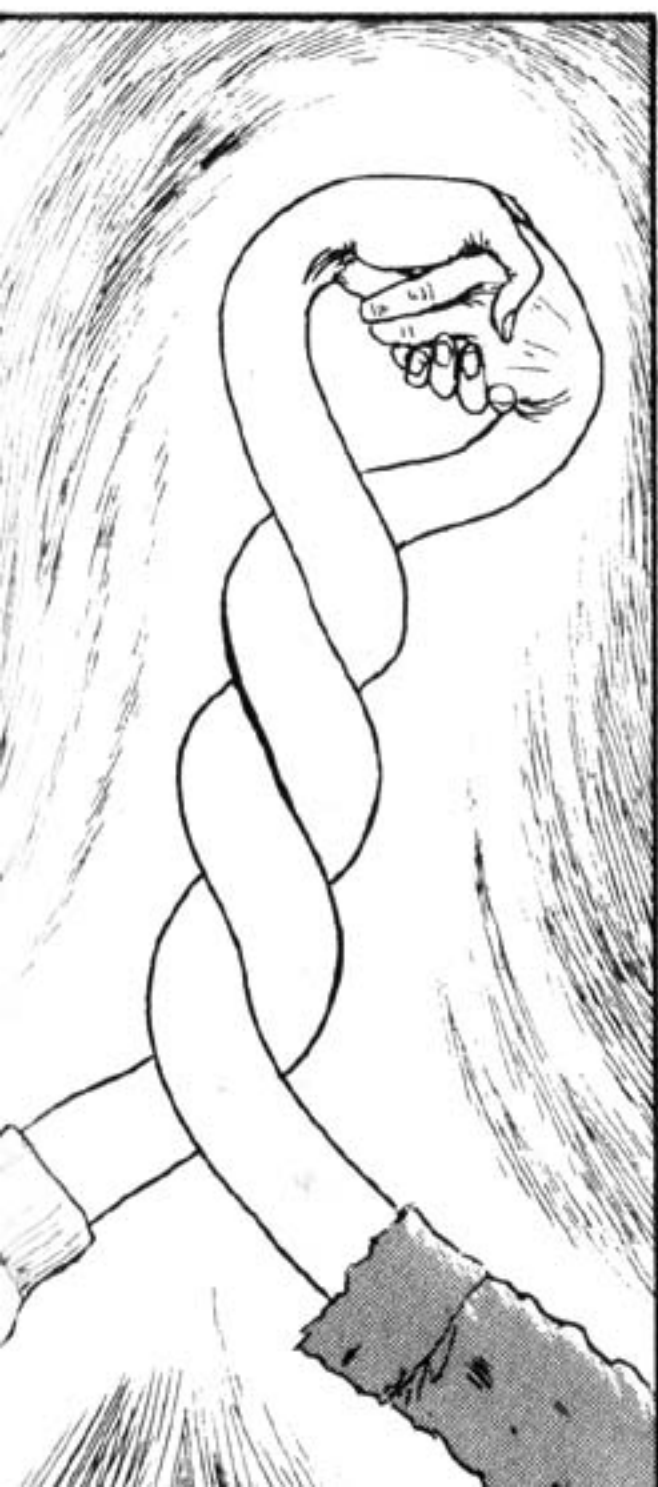
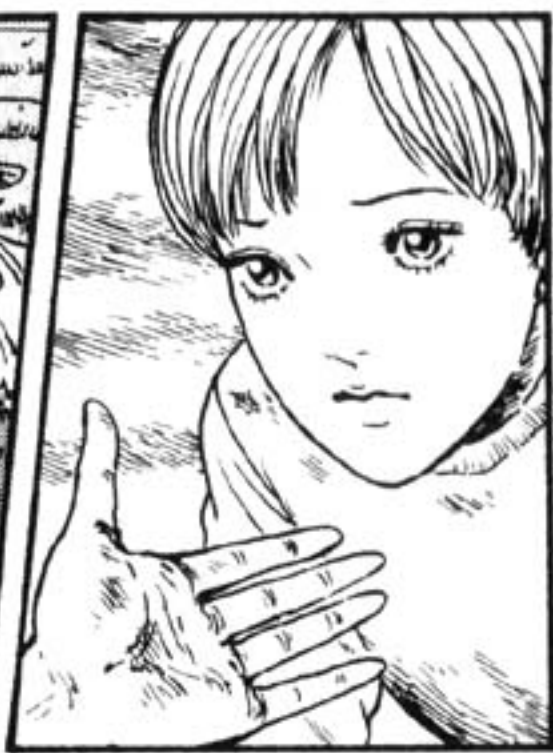








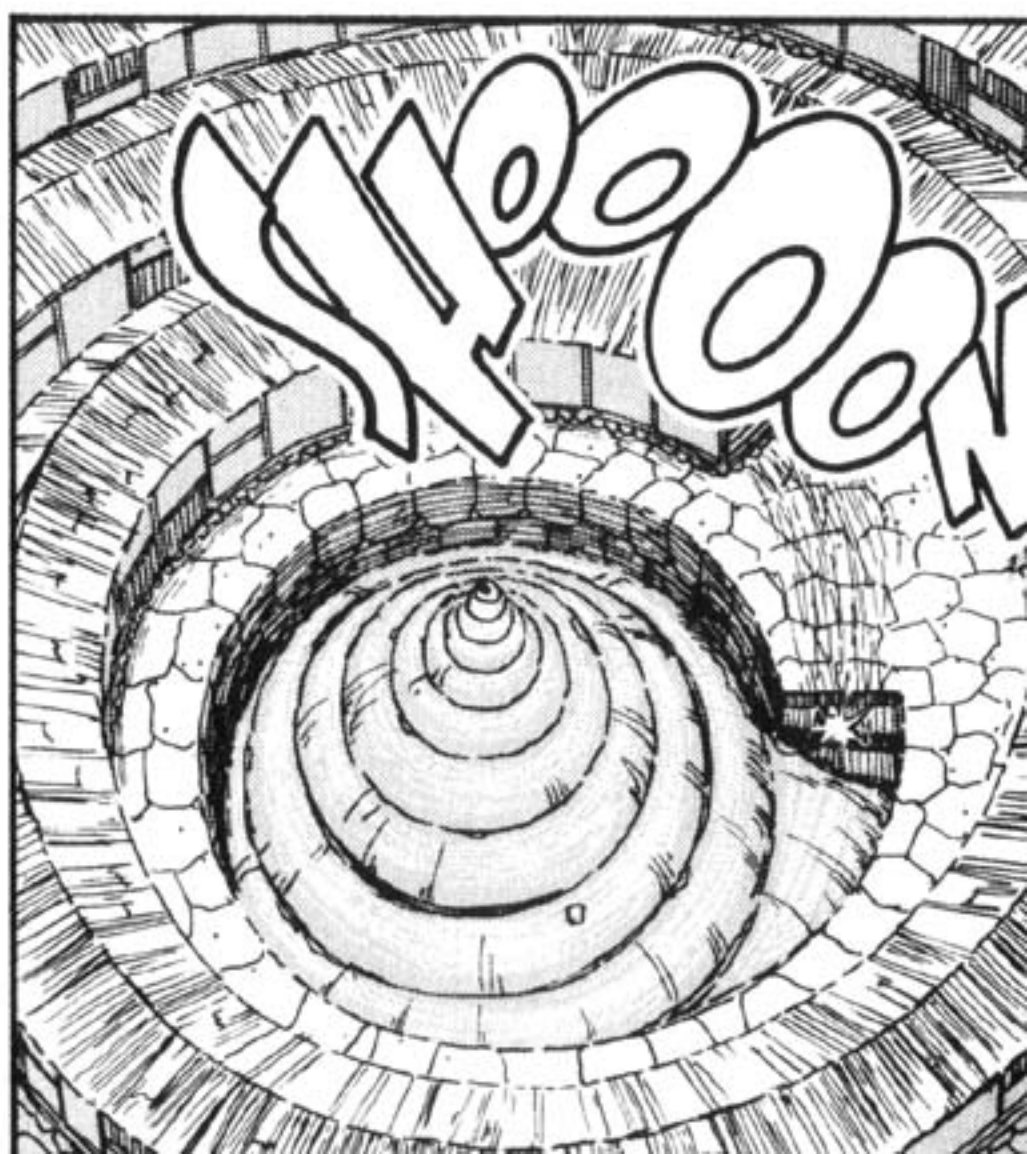
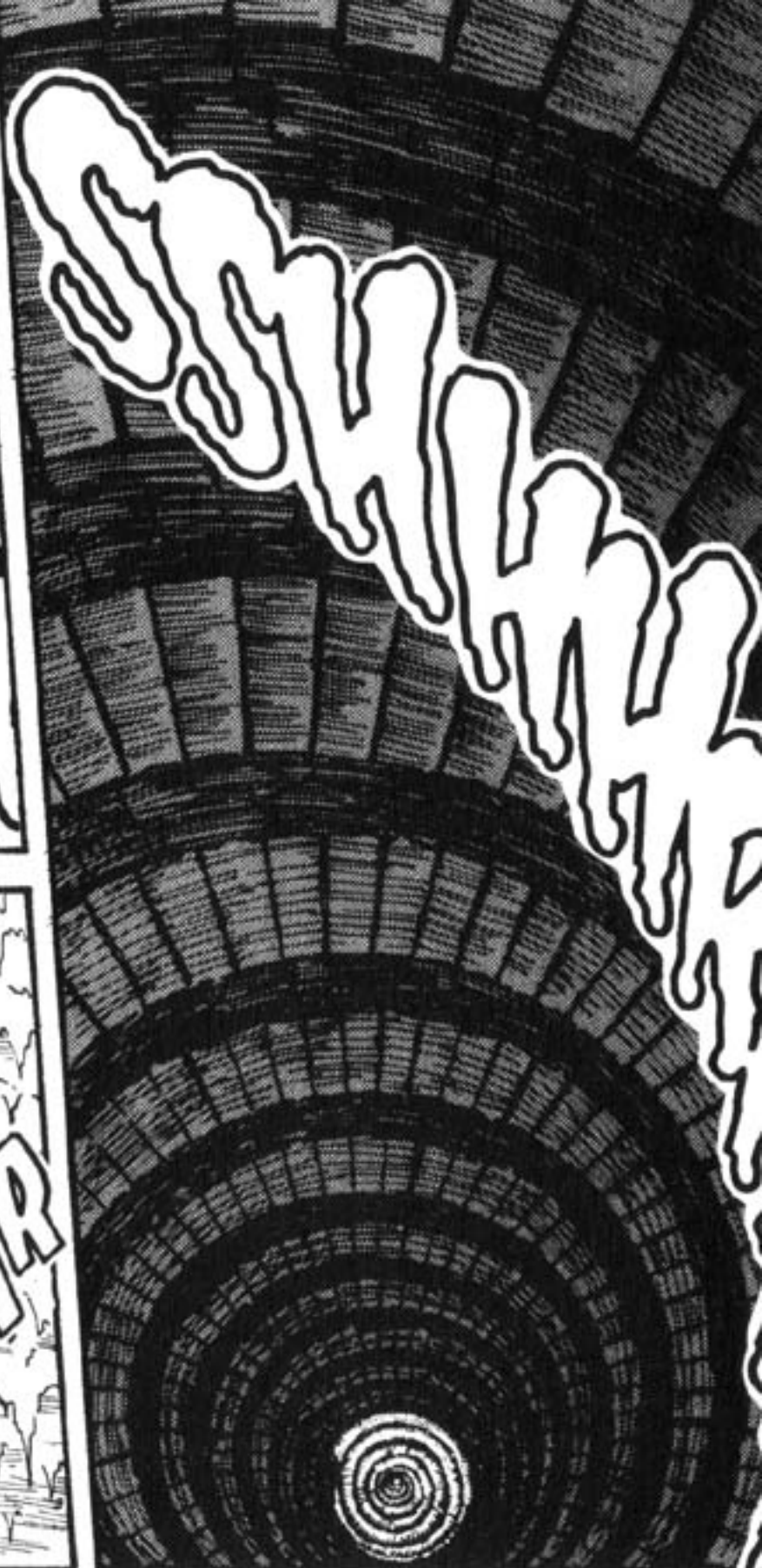














AND WITH  
THE SPIRAL  
COMPLETE,  
A STRANGE  
THING  
HAPPENED...

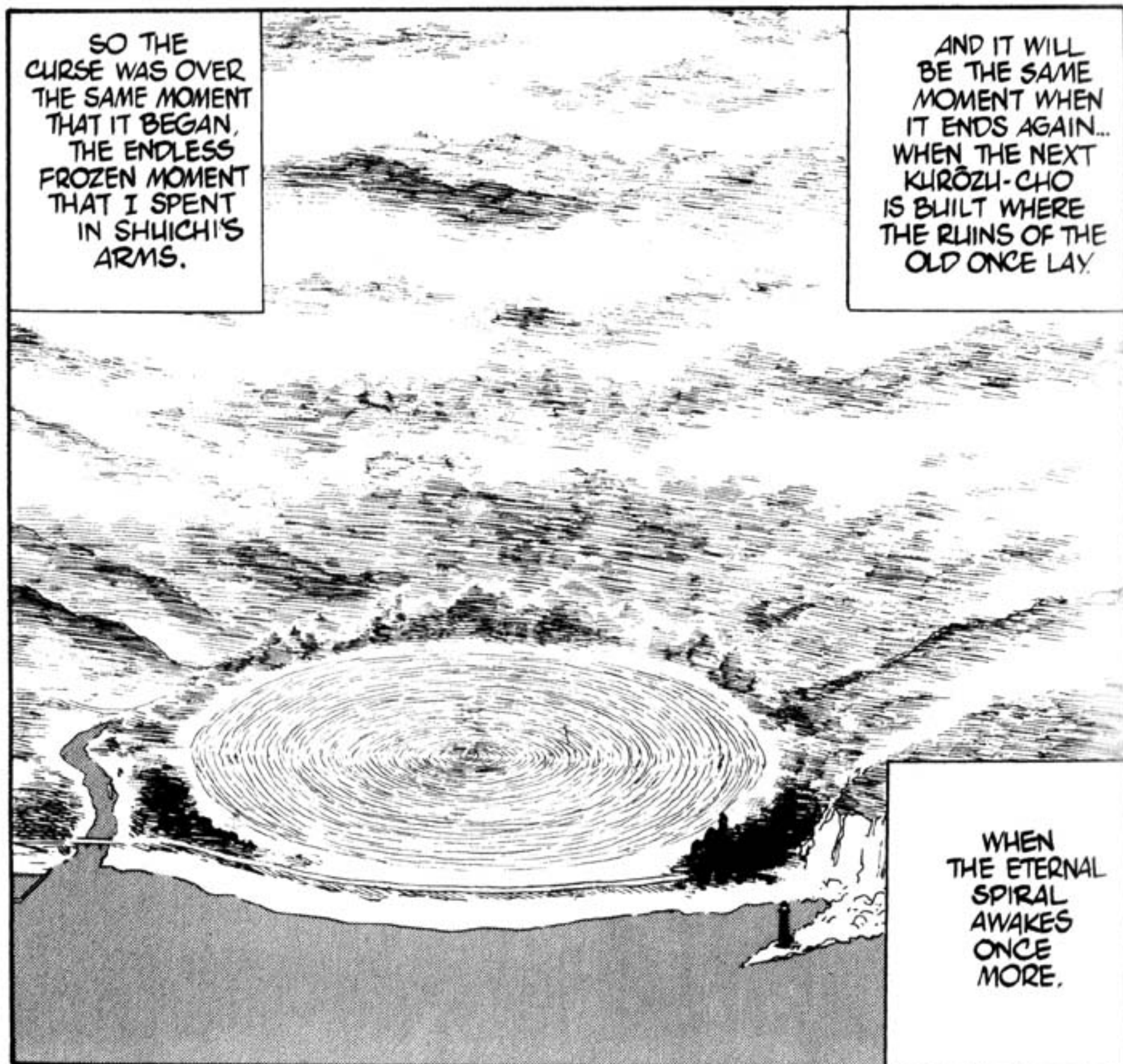


JUST AS TIME  
HAD SPED UP WHEN  
WE WERE ON THE  
OUTSKIRTS, IN THE  
CENTER OF THE  
SPIRAL IT STOOD  
STILL.



SO THE  
CURSE WAS OVER  
THE SAME MOMENT  
THAT IT BEGAN,  
THE ENDLESS  
FROZEN MOMENT  
THAT I SPENT  
IN SHUICHI'S  
ARMS.

AND IT WILL  
BE THE SAME  
MOMENT WHEN  
IT ENDS AGAIN...  
WHEN THE NEXT  
KURŌZU-CHO  
IS BUILT WHERE  
THE RUINS OF THE  
OLD ONCE LAY.



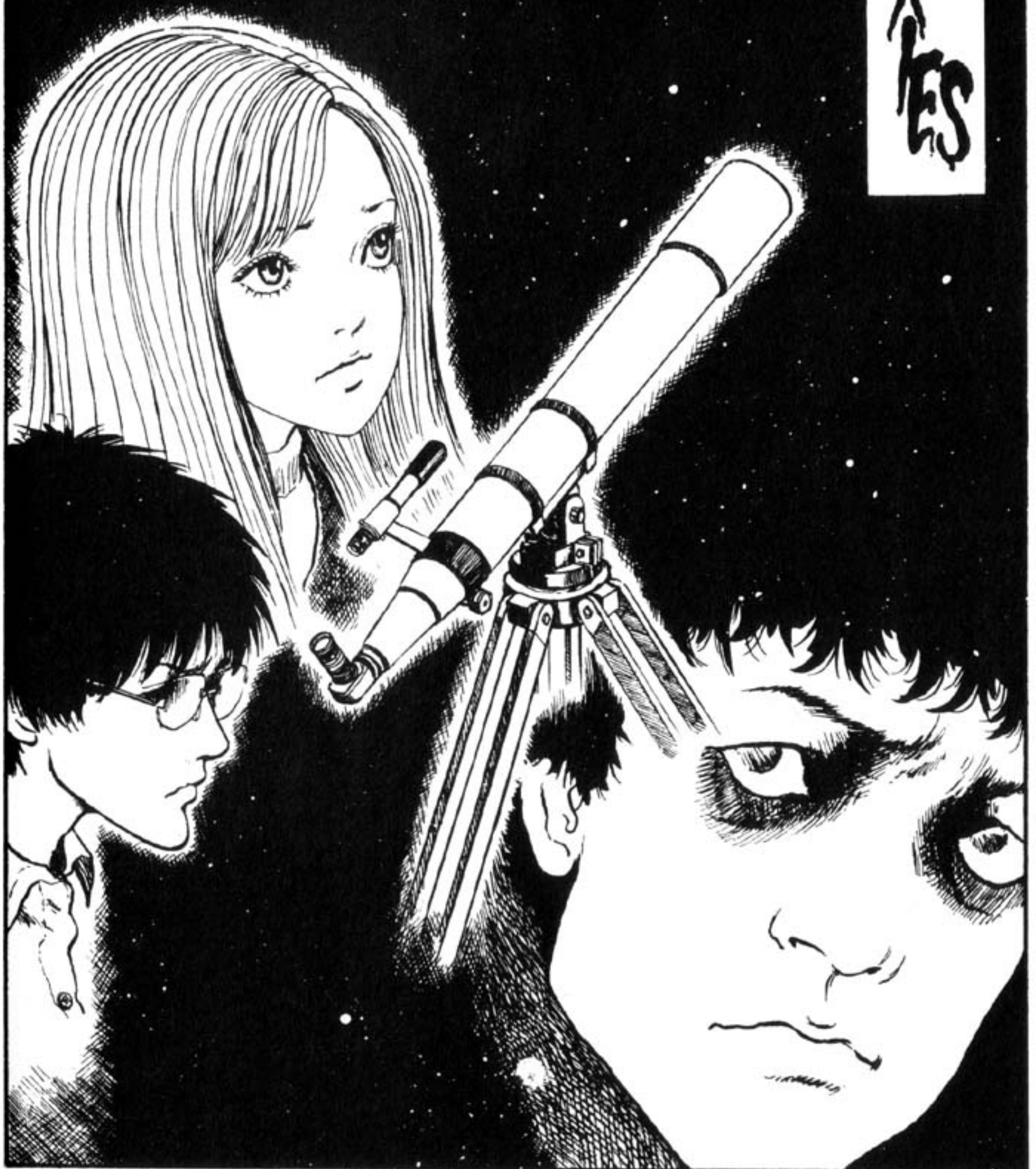
WHEN  
THE ETERNAL  
SPIRAL  
AWAKES  
ONCE  
MORE.

The End



LOST  
CHAPTER:

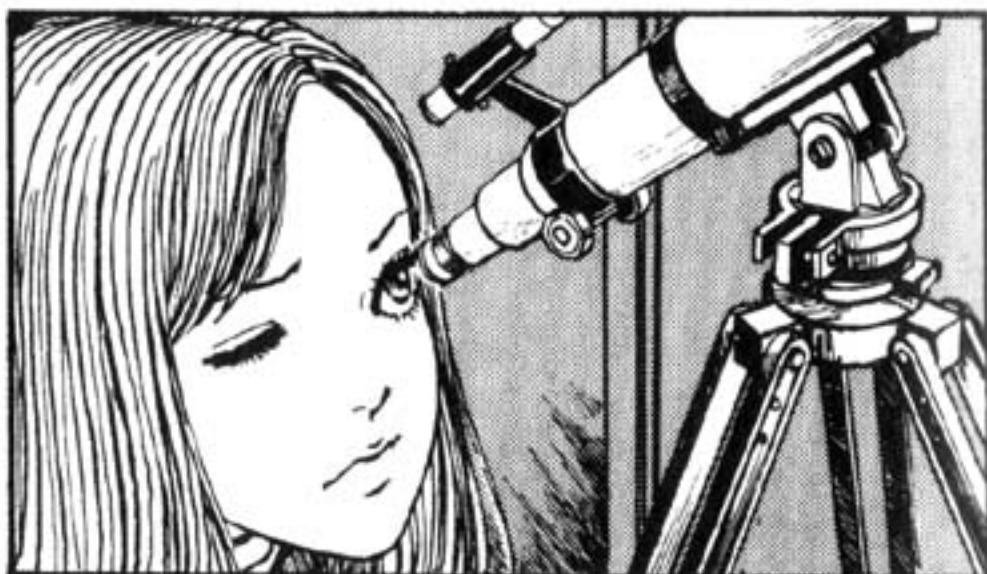
# GALAXIES





LOOK  
AT THAT,  
KIRIE.

CAN  
YOU  
SEE  
IT?



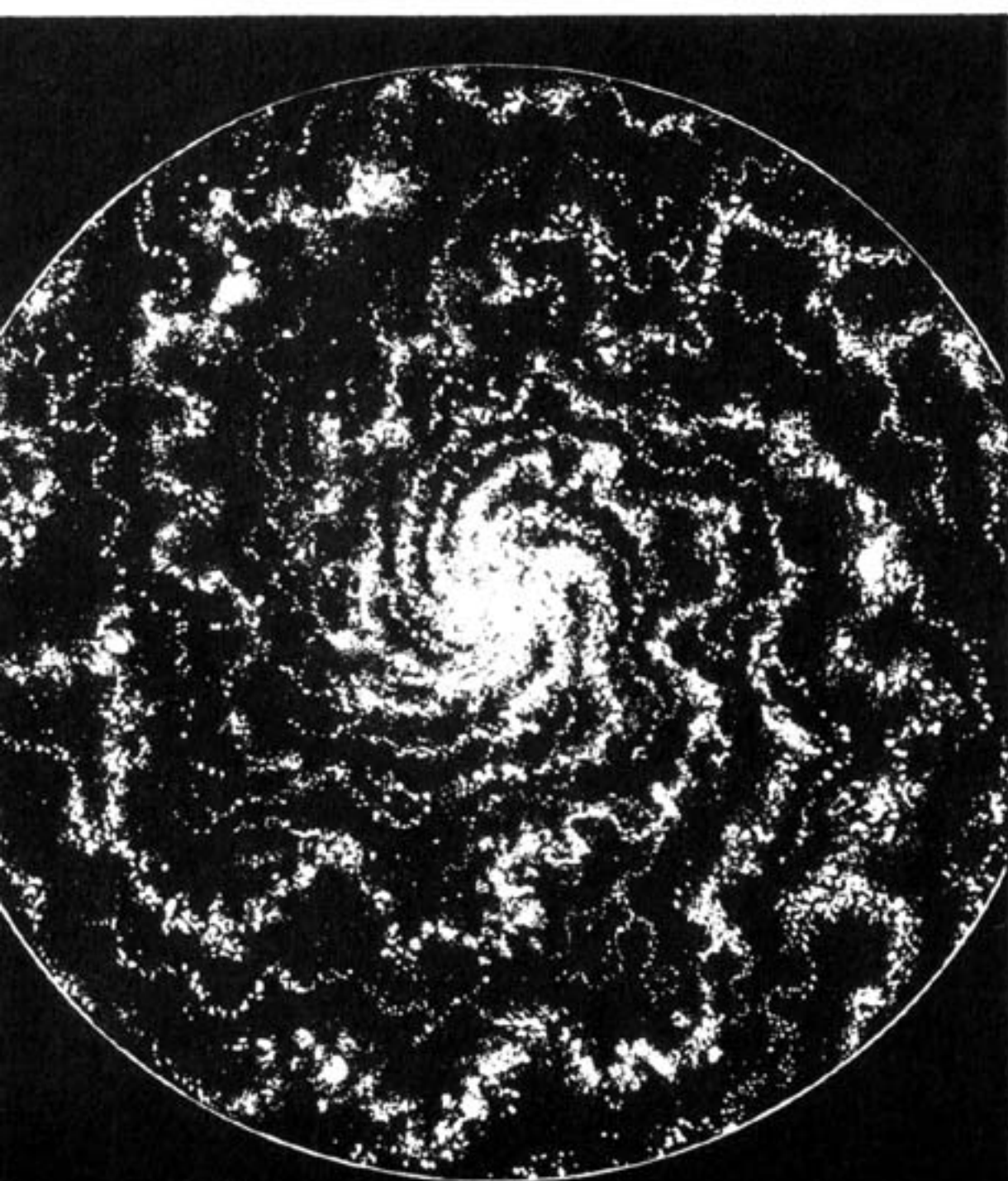
WOW,  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

I  
SEE IT,  
SHUICHI.

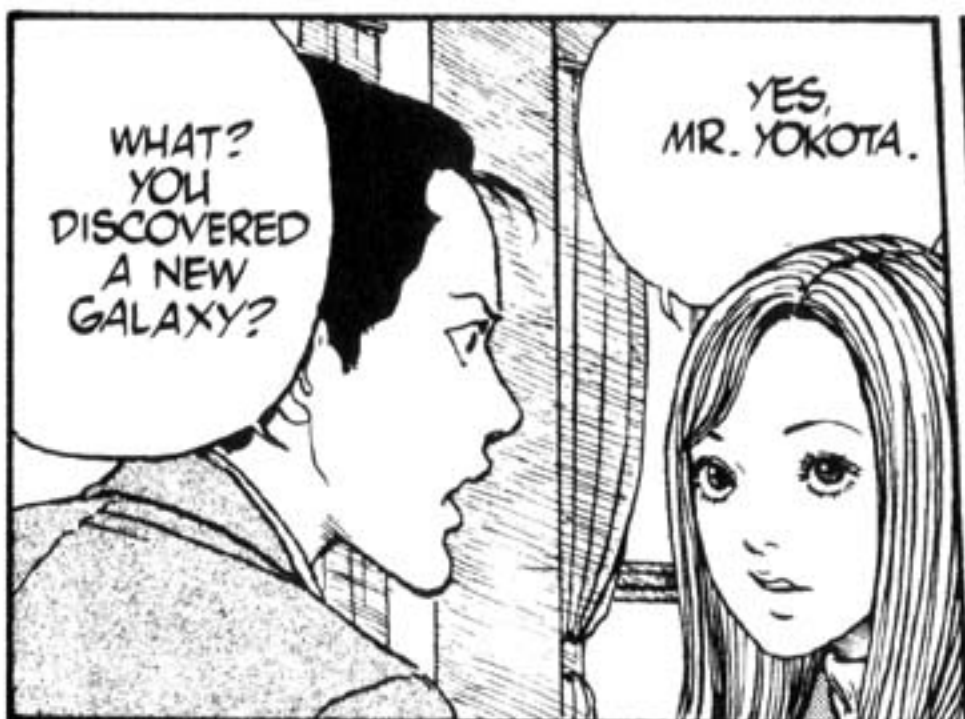


I  
FOUND  
IT LAST  
NIGHT.

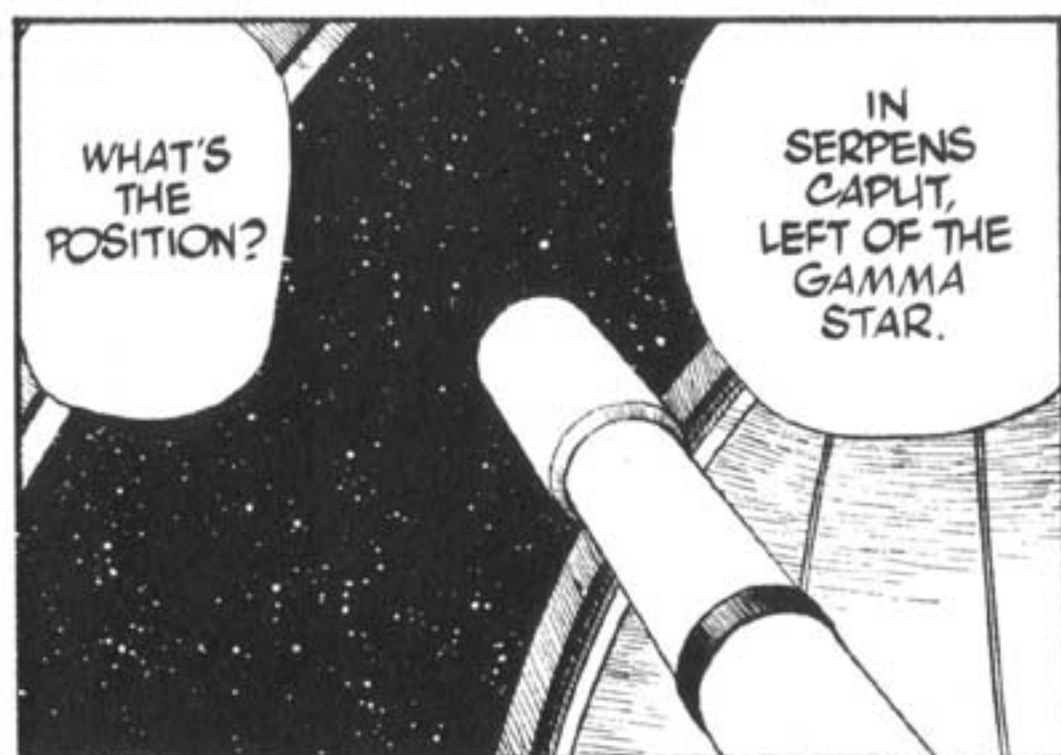
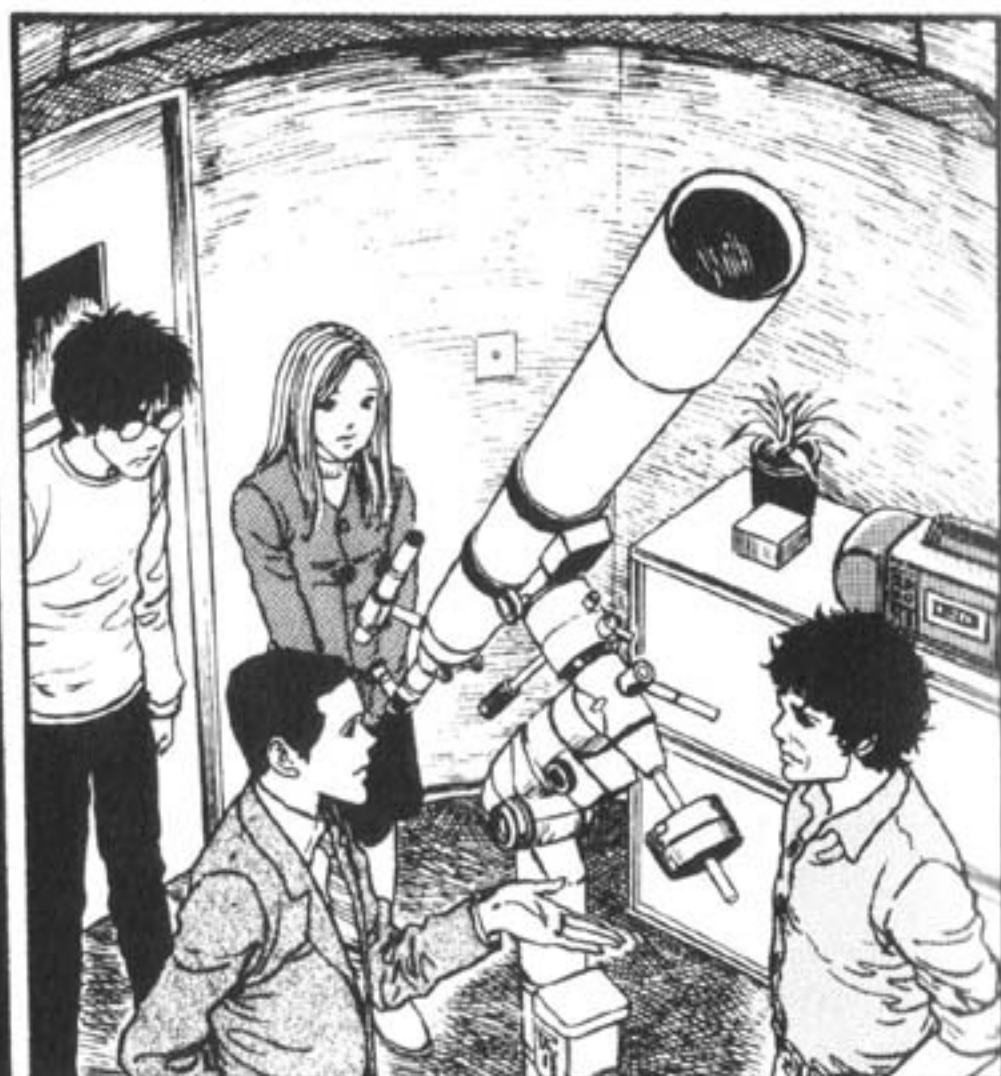
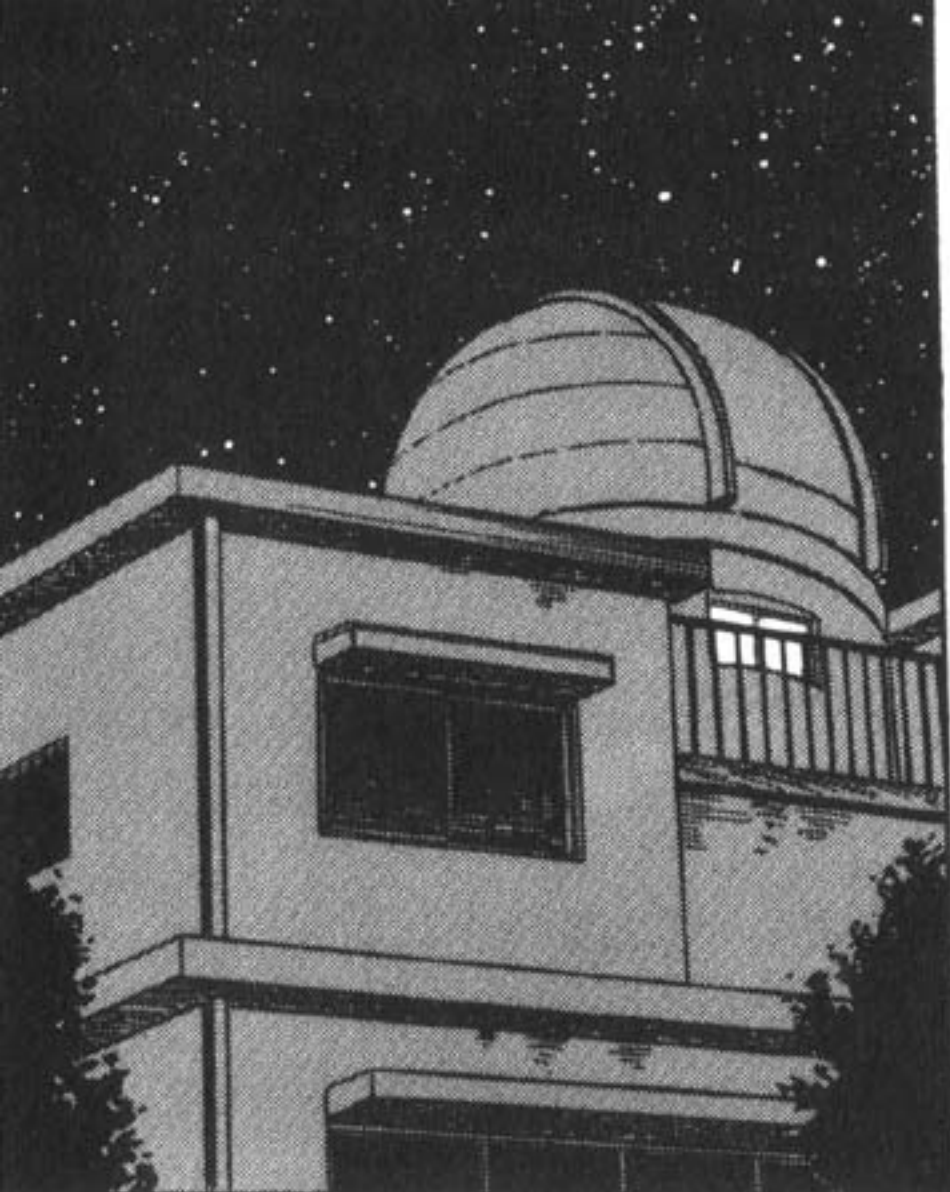
THIS  
GALAXY  
ISN'T  
LISTED  
IN ANY  
BOOK.







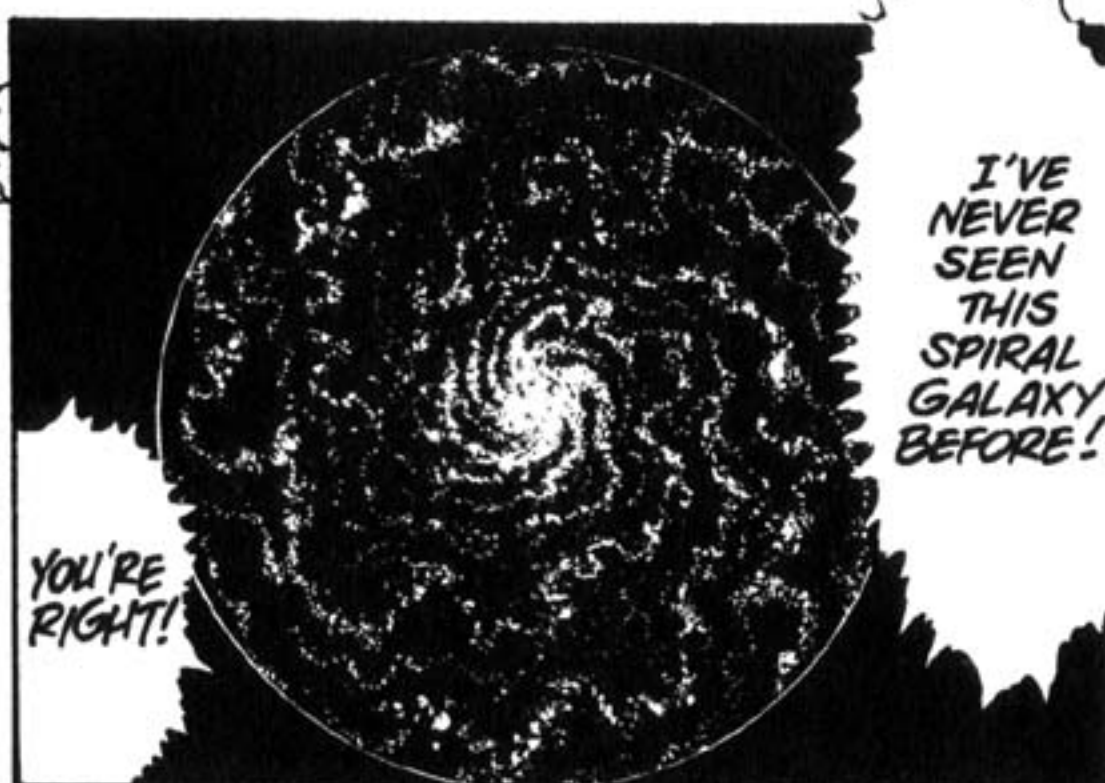








WHAT?!



YOU'RE RIGHT!

I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS SPIRAL GALAXY BEFORE!



REALLY? THEN IT'S TRUE?!



HOLD ON... WE SHOULDN'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS.

WE'LL HAVE TO CHECK WITH THE NATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY TO MAKE SURE IT ISN'T REGISTERED ALREADY.



BUT... IF IT'S TRUE, THEN THIS IS A REAL FIND.

THAT'S RIGHT.

IT MIGHT ACTUALLY BE NAMED AFTER YOU. THE SHUICHI GALAXY!



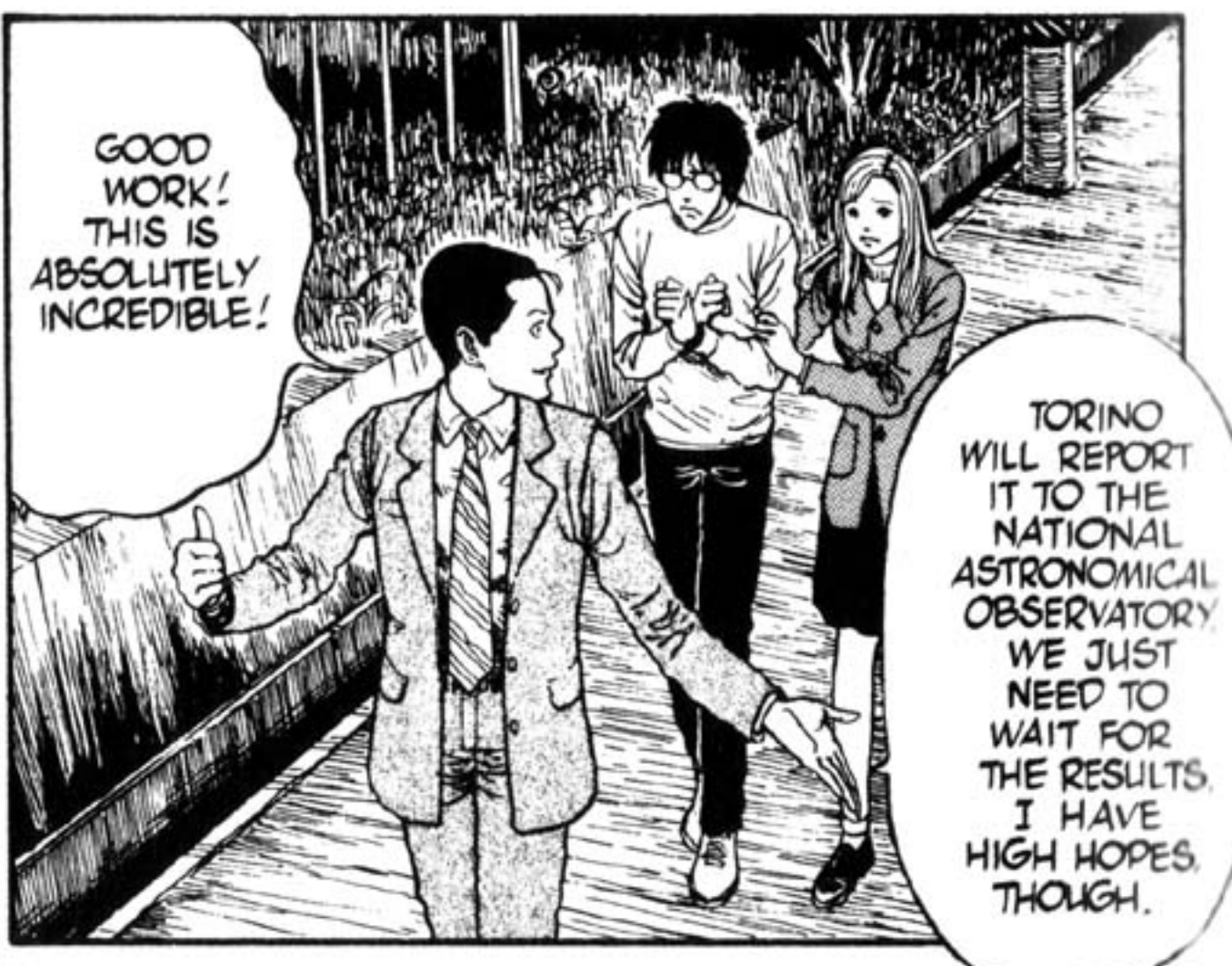
ARE YOU KIDDING? I DON'T WANT MY NAME ASSOCIATED WITH THAT!

THAT THING...



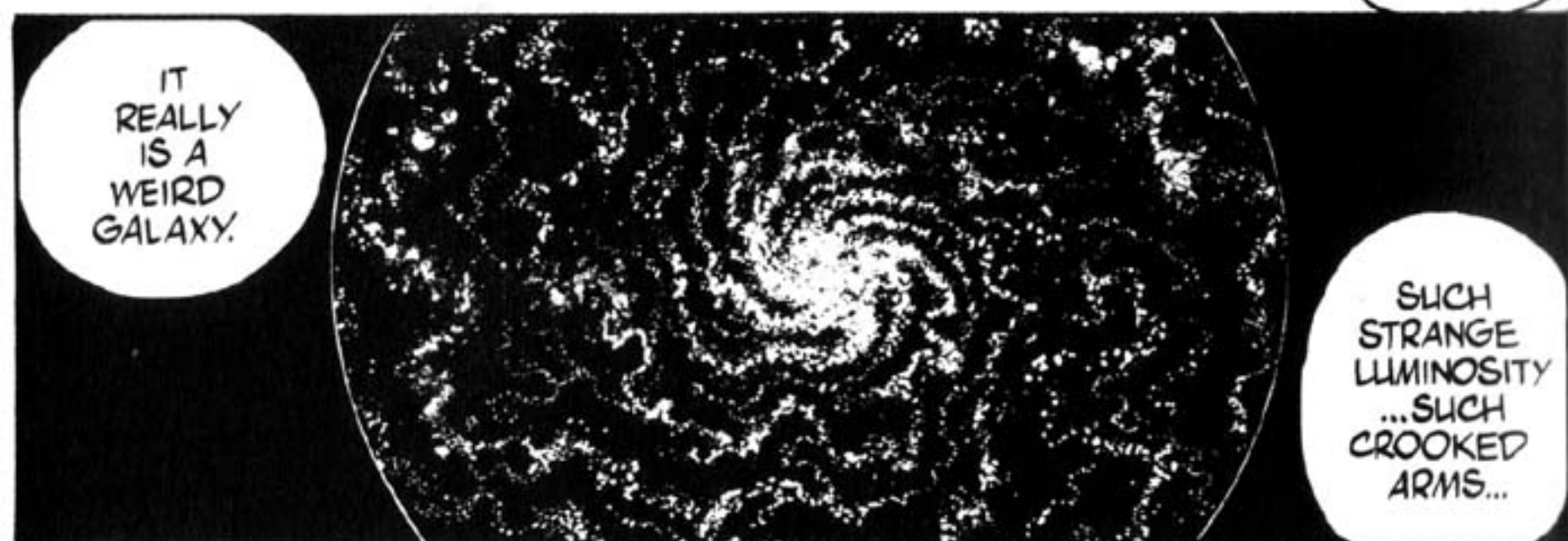
...





GOOD  
WORK!  
THIS IS  
ABSOLUTELY  
INCREDIBLE!

TORINO  
WILL REPORT  
IT TO THE  
NATIONAL  
ASTRONOMICAL  
OBSERVATORY.  
WE JUST  
NEED TO  
WAIT FOR  
THE RESULTS.  
I HAVE  
HIGH HOPES,  
THOUGH.



IT  
REALLY  
IS A  
WEIRD  
GALAXY.

SUCH  
STRANGE  
LUMINOSITY  
...SUCH  
CROOKED  
ARMS...



BUT...  
WHY  
DIDN'T I  
NOTICE IT  
UNTIL  
NOW?

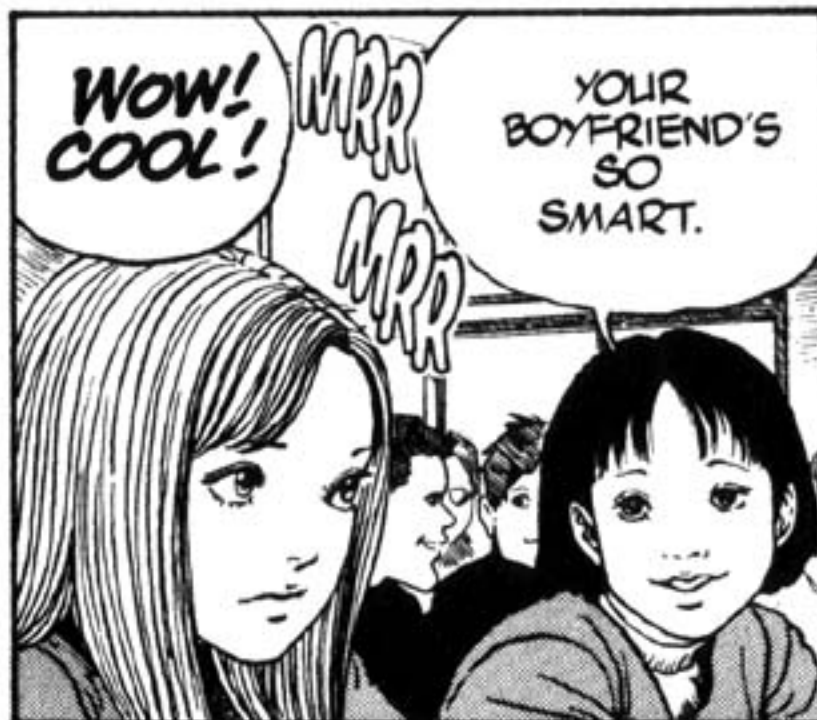
IT'S SO  
CLEAR.  
HOW COULD  
I HAVE  
MISSED  
IT?



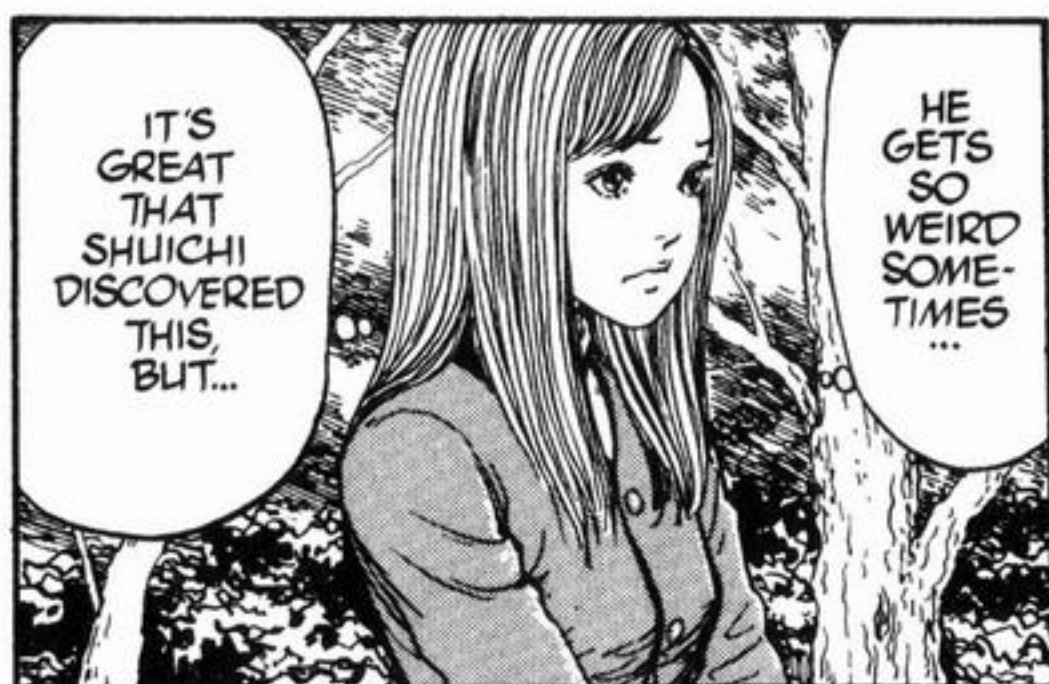
IF  
THIS  
IS A  
NEW  
DISCOVERY  
...

THEN IT'S  
ABSOLUTELY  
AMAZING!

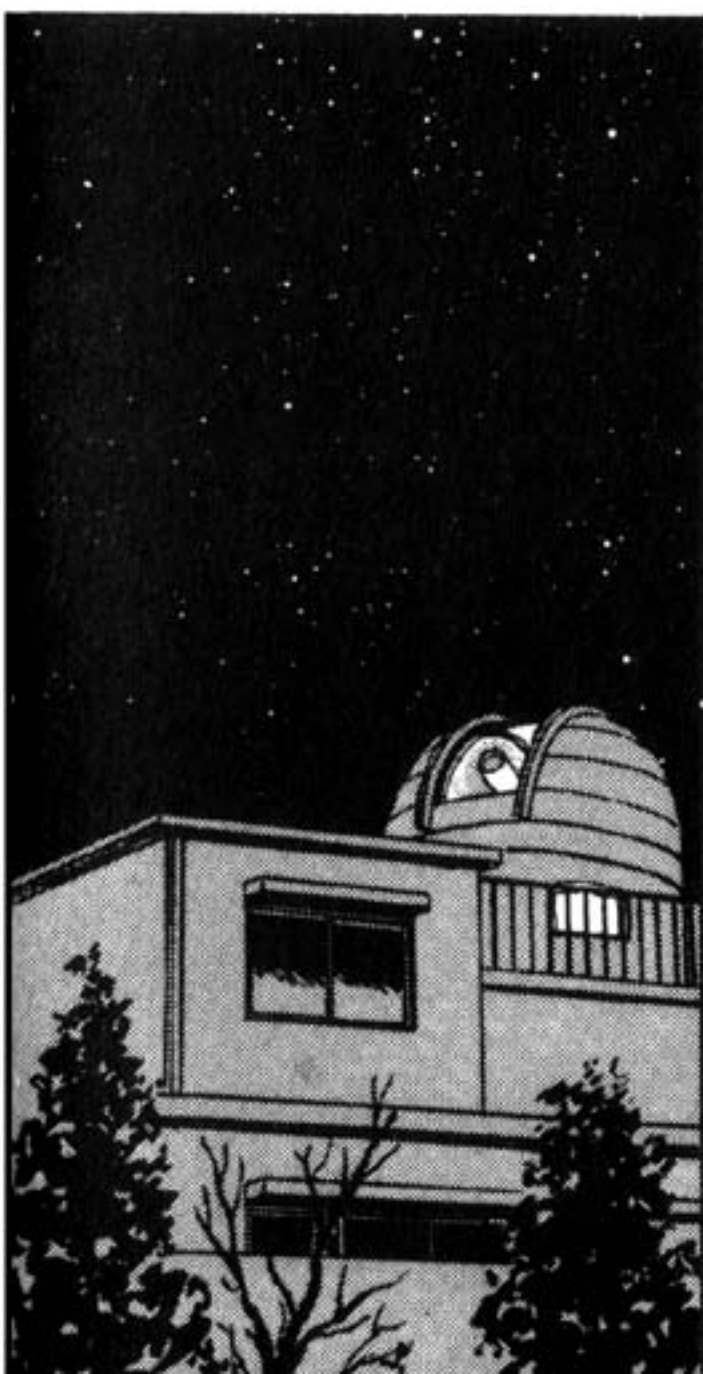
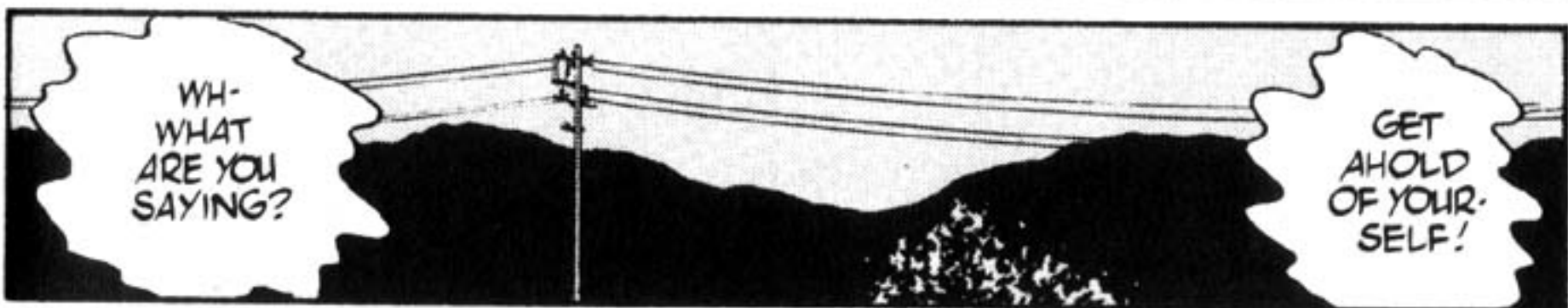








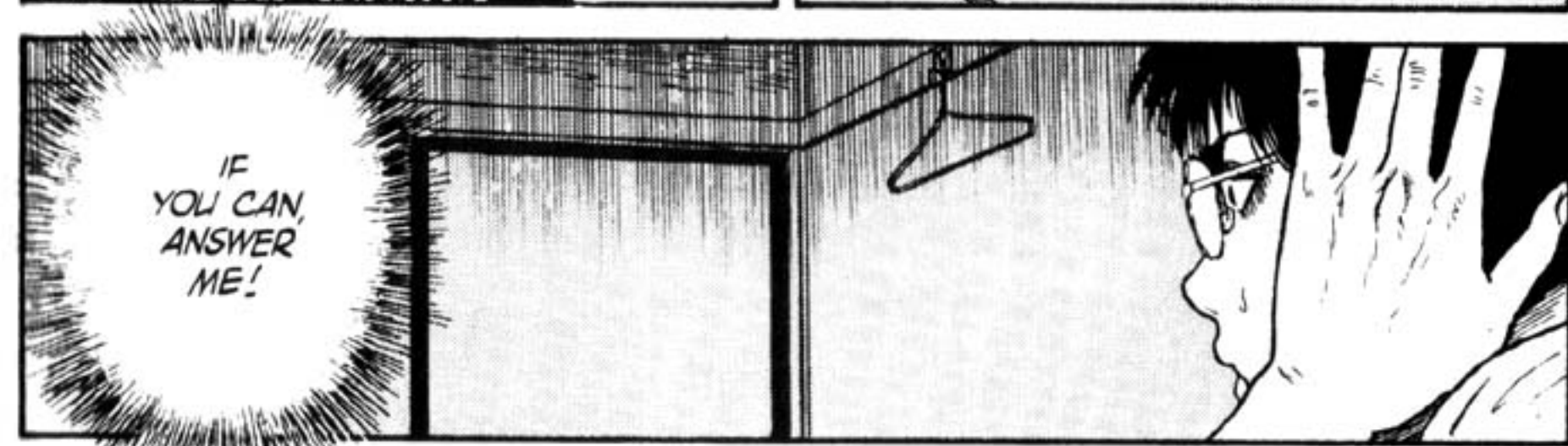




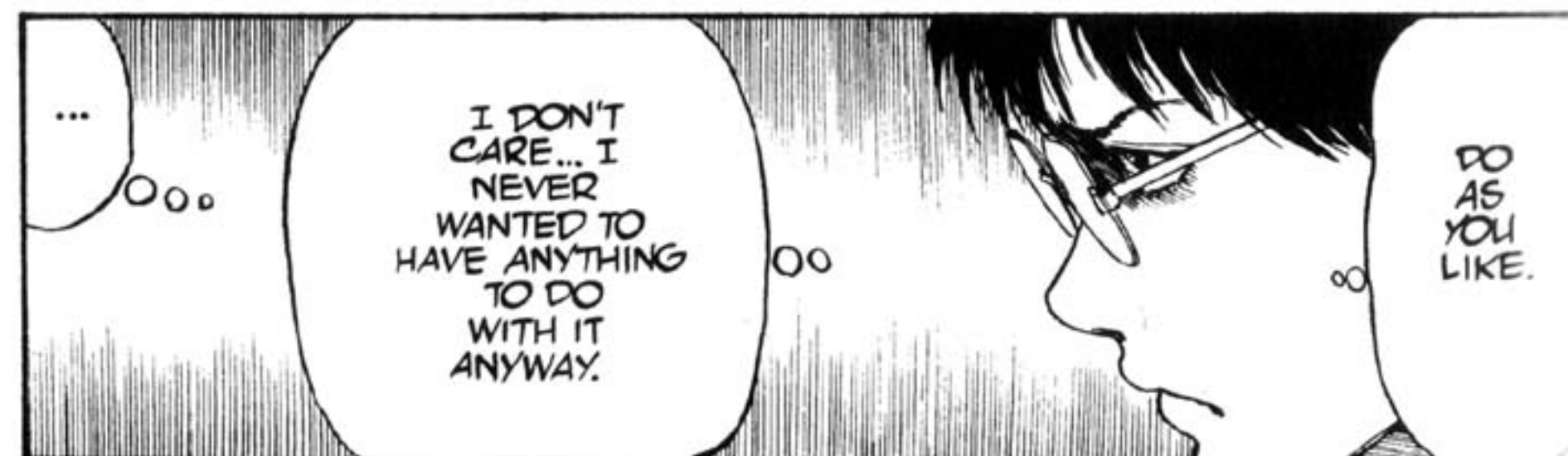




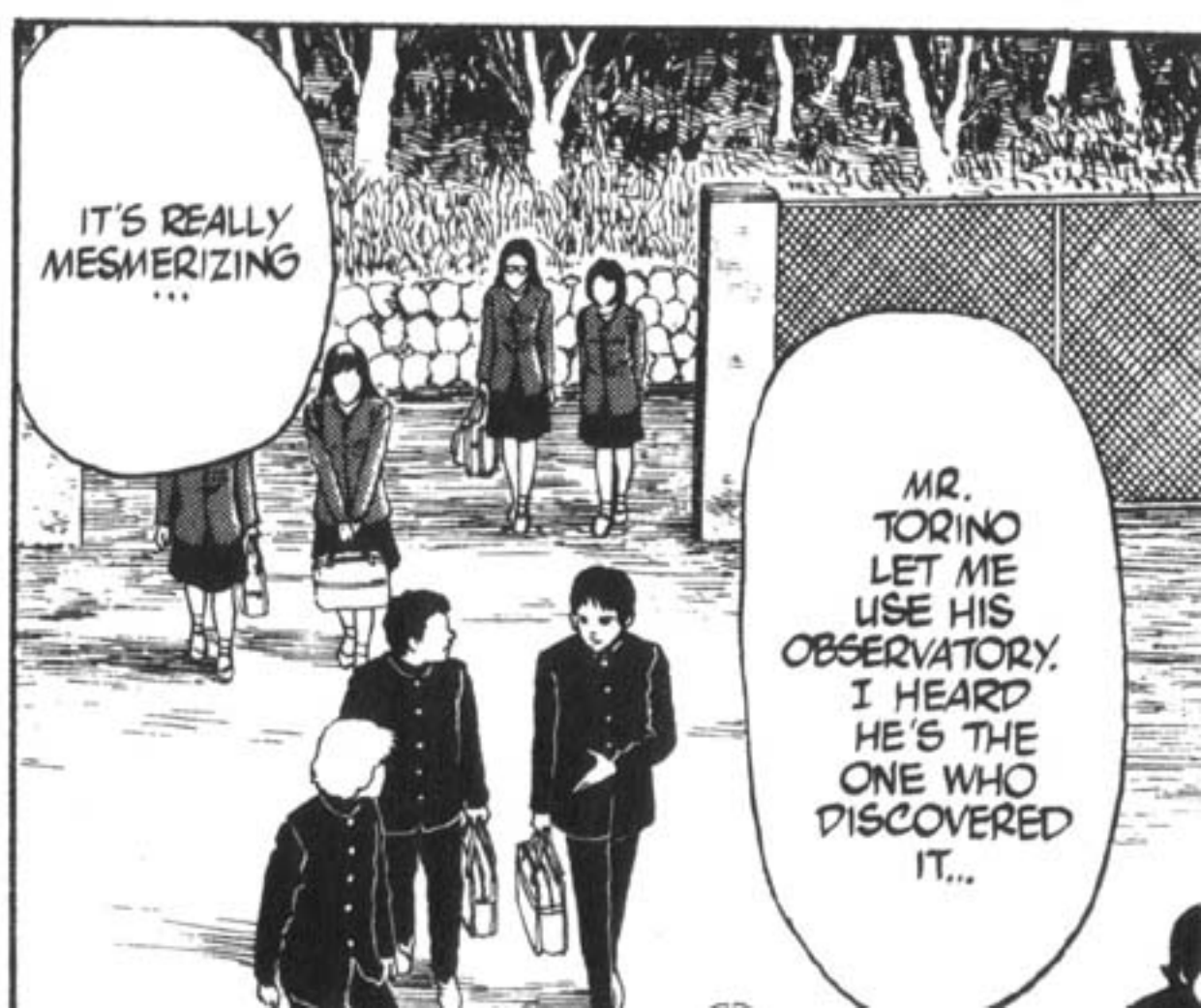




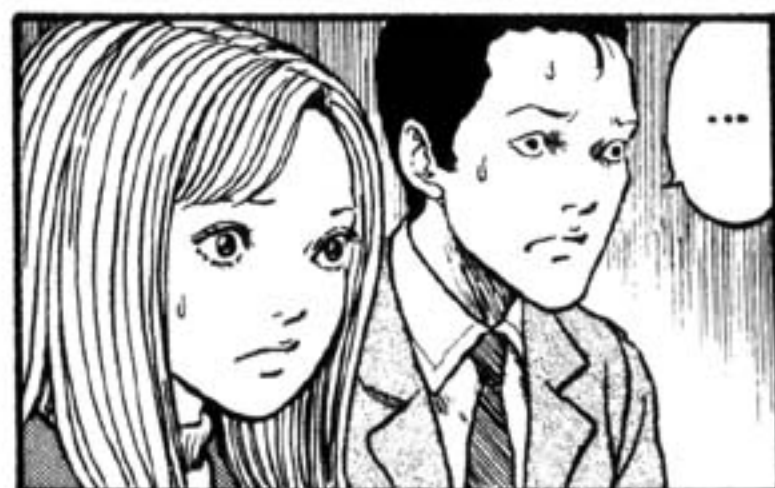
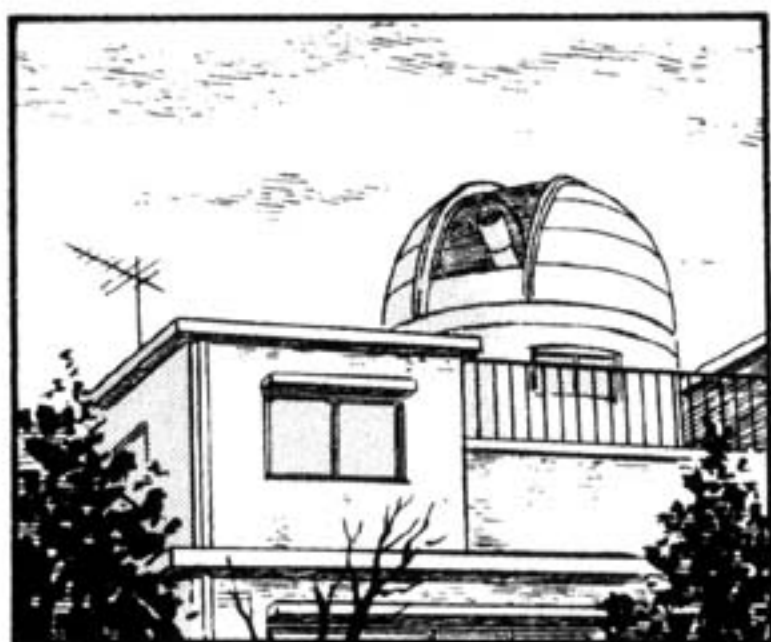
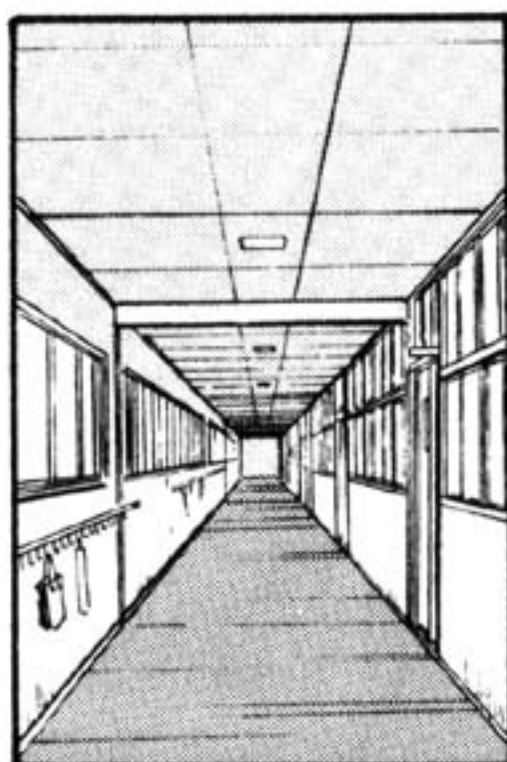
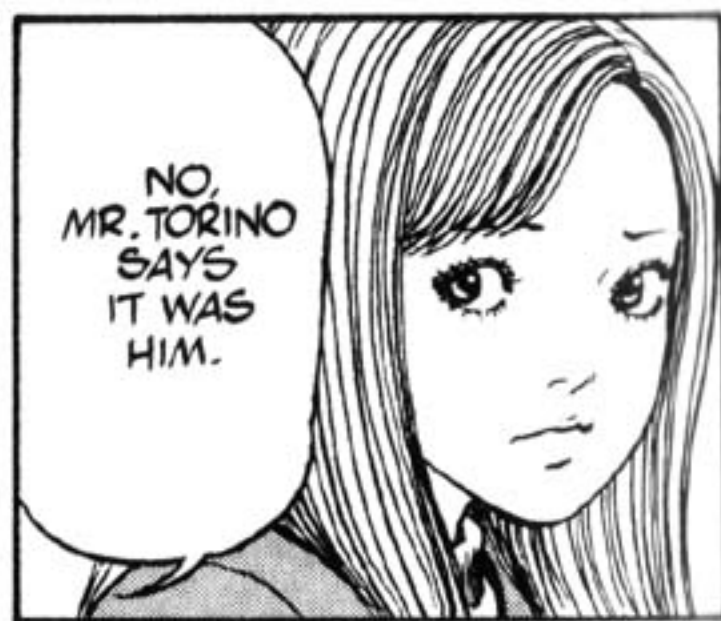
















YES...  
I DID  
MAKE THAT  
CLAIM.

I AM  
IN FACT  
THE  
DISCOVERER.



WH-

WHAT?!



WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?  
SHUICHI  
FOUND IT  
BEFORE  
YOU DID!



HE  
RELINQUISHED  
HIS CLAIM,  
SO I  
DISCOVERED  
IT BY  
DEFAULT.



TH-  
THAT'S  
PRE-  
POSTEROUS  
!

THAT'S  
RIGHT,  
TORINO  
...IT'S  
NOT  
FAIR!



Oh,  
YES  
IT IS.

I  
TALKED  
IT  
OVER  
WITH  
HIM.



IN  
ANY CASE,  
IT'S A  
SPECTACULAR  
GALAXY.

IT'LL  
PROVIDE  
YEARS OF  
SCIENTIFIC  
RESEARCH,  
AND I'M SURE  
IT'LL YIELD  
UP ITS  
MYSTERIES.



THERE'S  
ONE  
THING  
I  
ALREADY  
KNOW.

IT  
SENDS OUT  
POWERFUL  
TRANSMISSIONS,  
FAR GREATER  
THAN MOST  
SO-CALLED  
"RADIO  
GALAXIES."









HEY...  
WHAT'S  
THIS?!

DID  
YOU FIND  
SOMETHING?!

I'VE  
NEVER  
SEEN THIS  
GALAXY.  
IT'S NOT  
THE ONE  
IN THE  
SERPENT  
CONSTEL-  
LATION.



HEY,  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT...  
I'VE NEVER  
SEEN  
THIS IN  
ANY  
STAR  
CHART.



I'VE  
GOT THE  
SAME THING  
OVER  
HERE.

I'VE  
BEEN  
OBSERVING  
IT FOR  
A WHILE  
NOW.

ANOTHER  
DISCOVERY?  
LET'S GO  
HOME AND  
CHECK  
OUR  
BOOKS!

STRANGELY,  
MANY  
MORE NEW  
GALAXIES  
WERE  
DISCOVERED  
...



...BY  
PEOPLE  
ALL  
OVER  
TOWN.









YOU  
DAMN  
THIEF! YOU  
STOLE MY  
DISCOVERY!

WH-  
WHAT IS  
THIS?

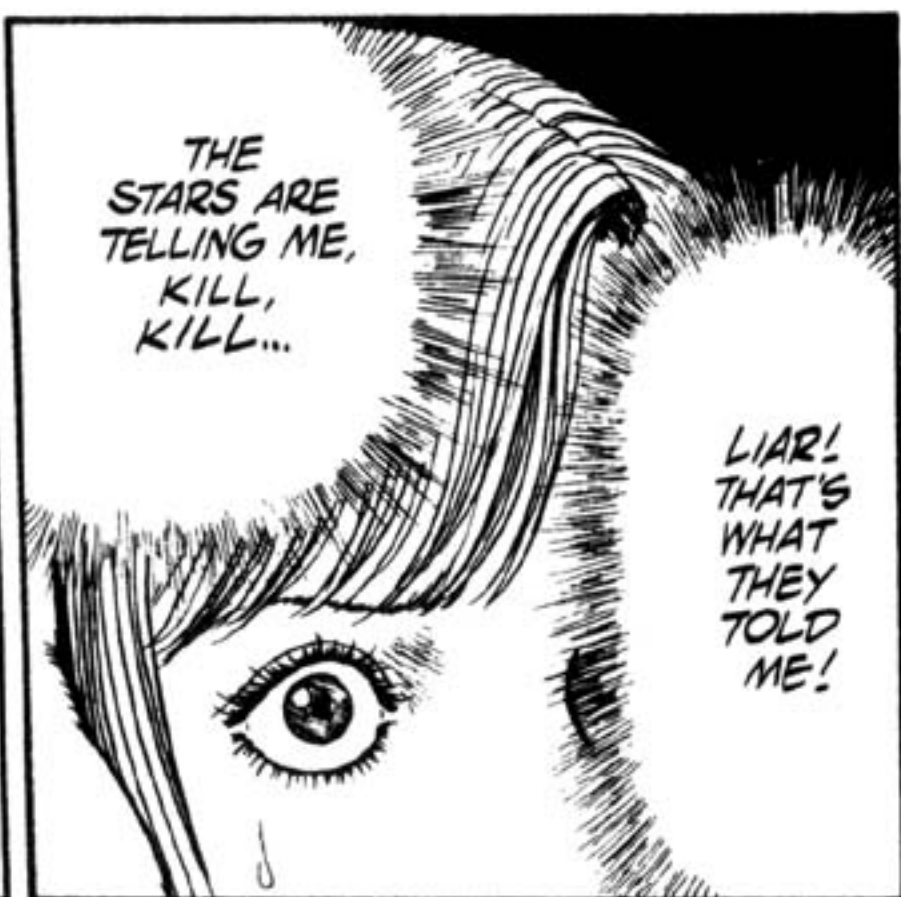
I'M  
GOING  
TO KILL  
YOU!

I'M  
HEARING  
PEOPLE'S  
CONVERSATIONS  
IN MY  
HEAD!



YOU'LL  
BE THE  
DEAD ONE  
IF YOU  
SHOW YOUR  
FACE AROUND  
HERE. I  
DARE  
YOU!

I'M  
ALREADY  
HEADED  
YOUR WAY.  
YOU'LL  
SEE.



THE  
STARS ARE  
TELLING ME,  
KILL,  
KILL...

LIAR!  
THAT'S  
WHAT  
THEY  
TOLD  
ME!



COME  
ON, THEN,  
YOU BETTER  
BE  
ARMED!

NOW  
I  
SEE  
YOU!

I'M  
COMING  
CLOSER...  
100 METERS...  
90...80...



Huff...  
hff... gggp...  
ahh...

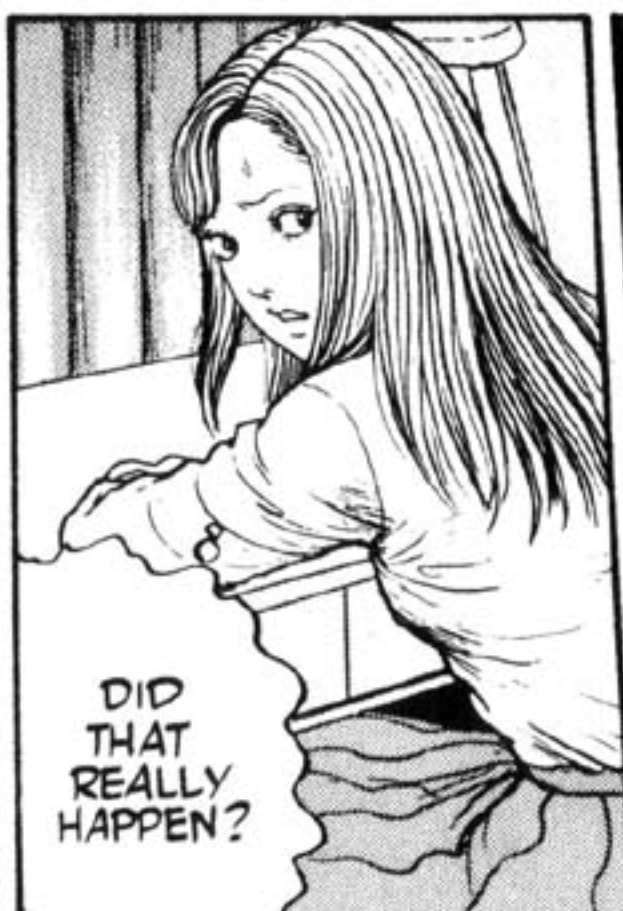
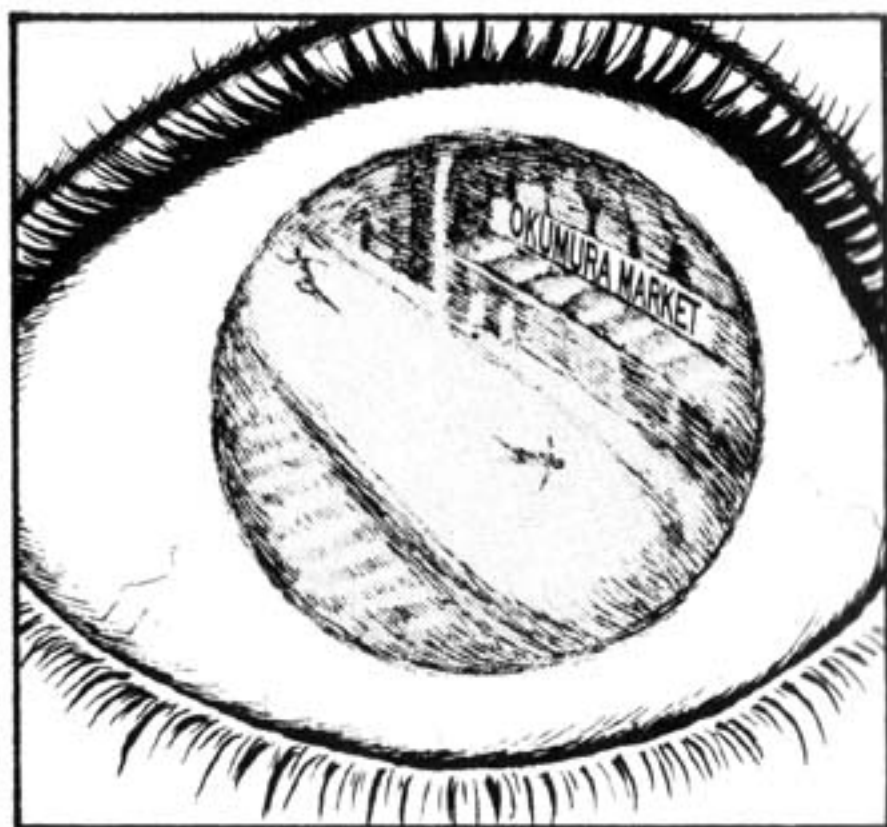
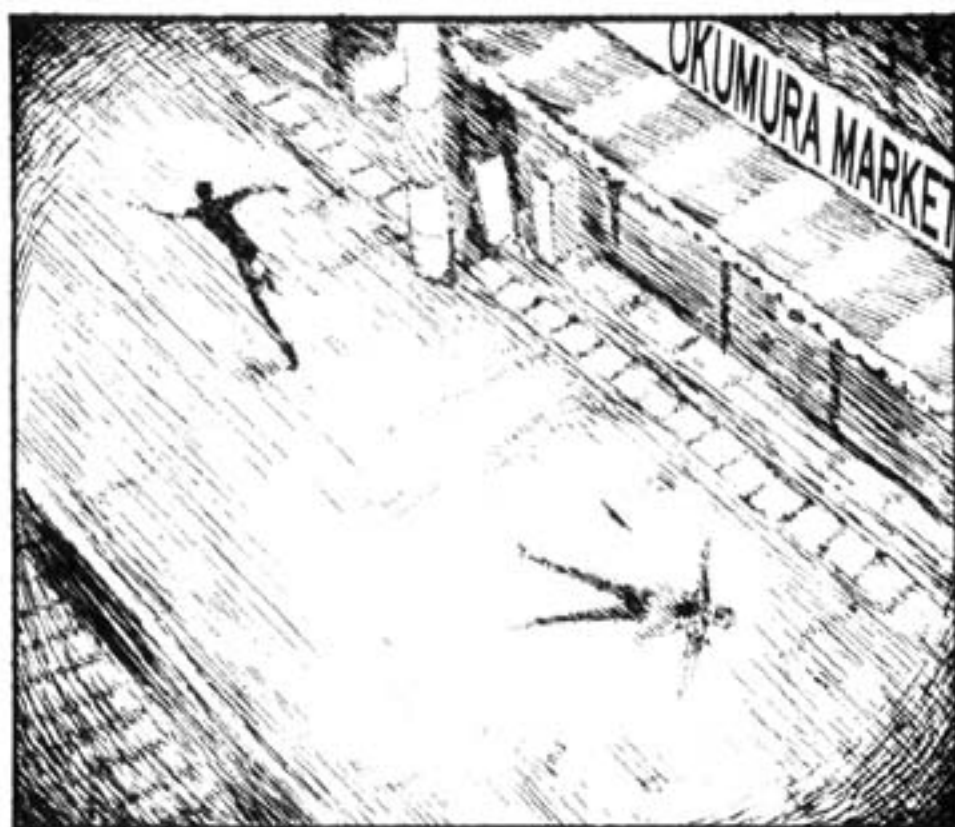
Uff...  
hff... hff...  
hhh...



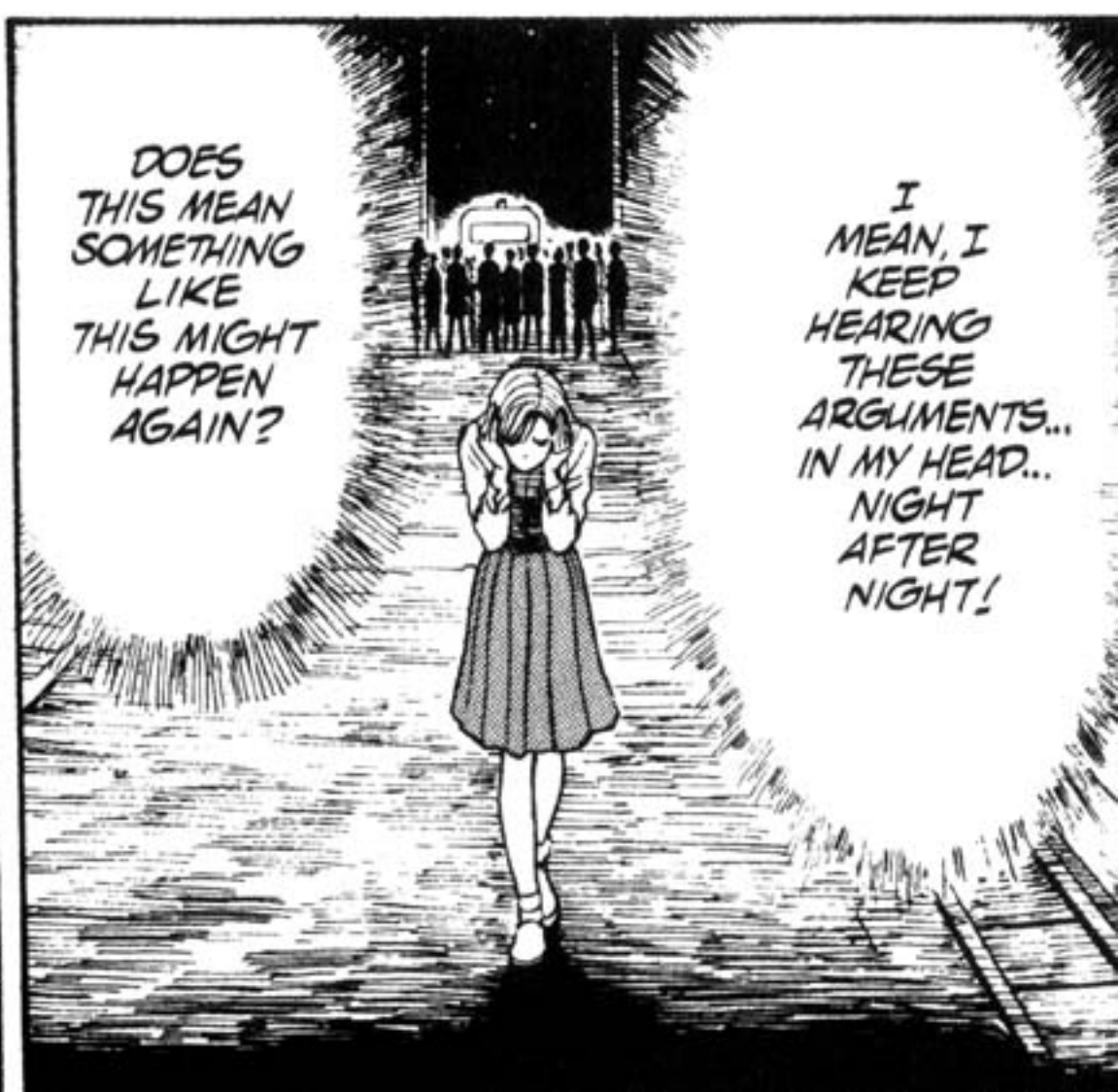
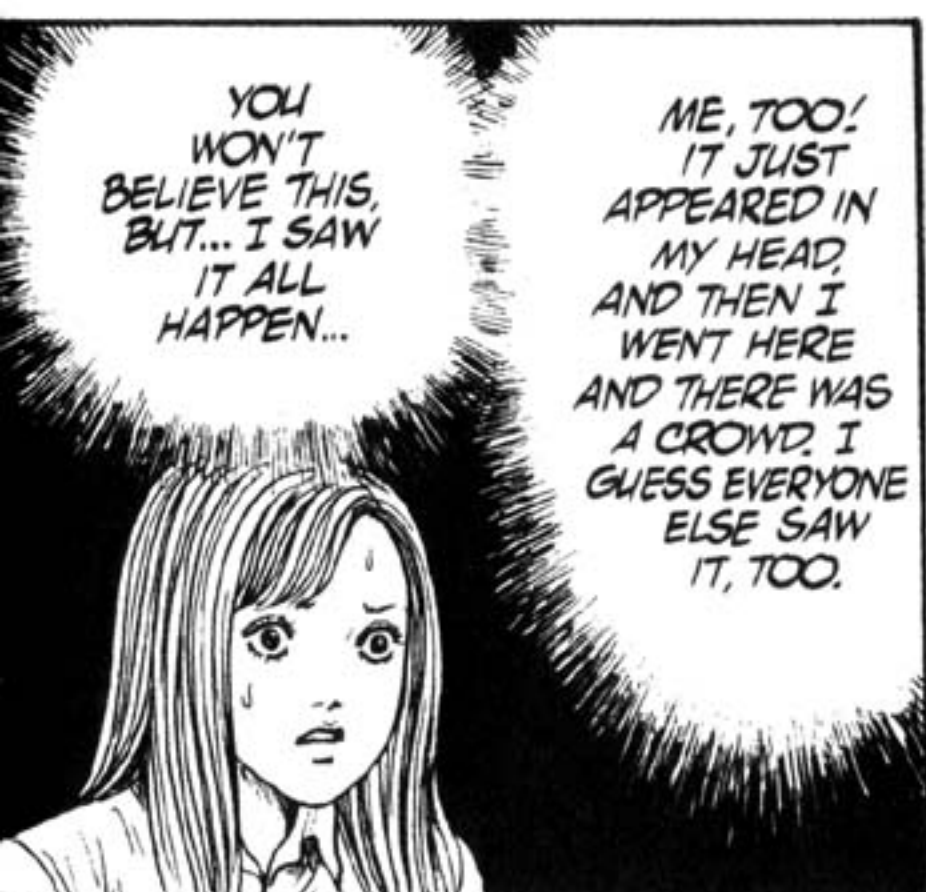
TAKE THIS,  
YOU BASTARD!  
AAAGH!

KYAA!!

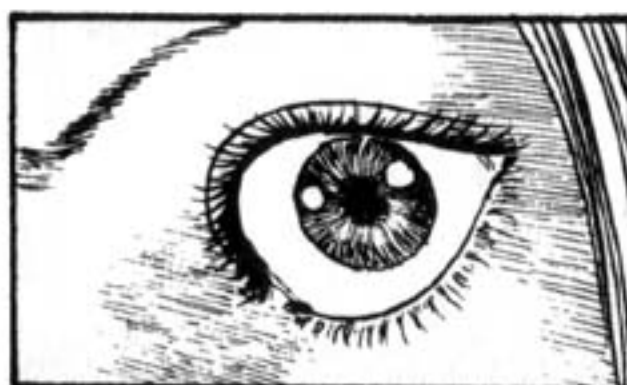
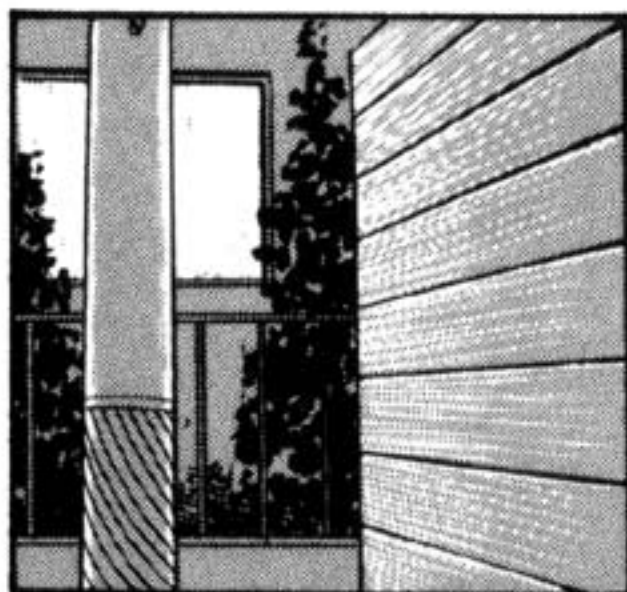




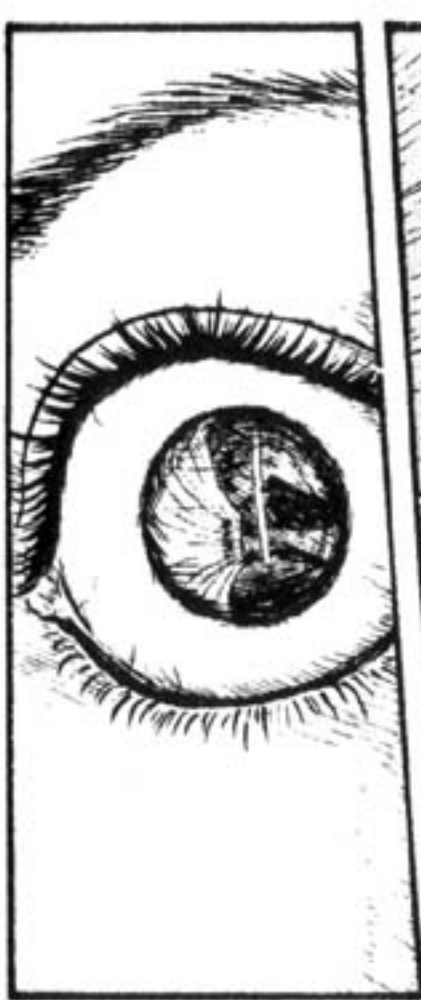








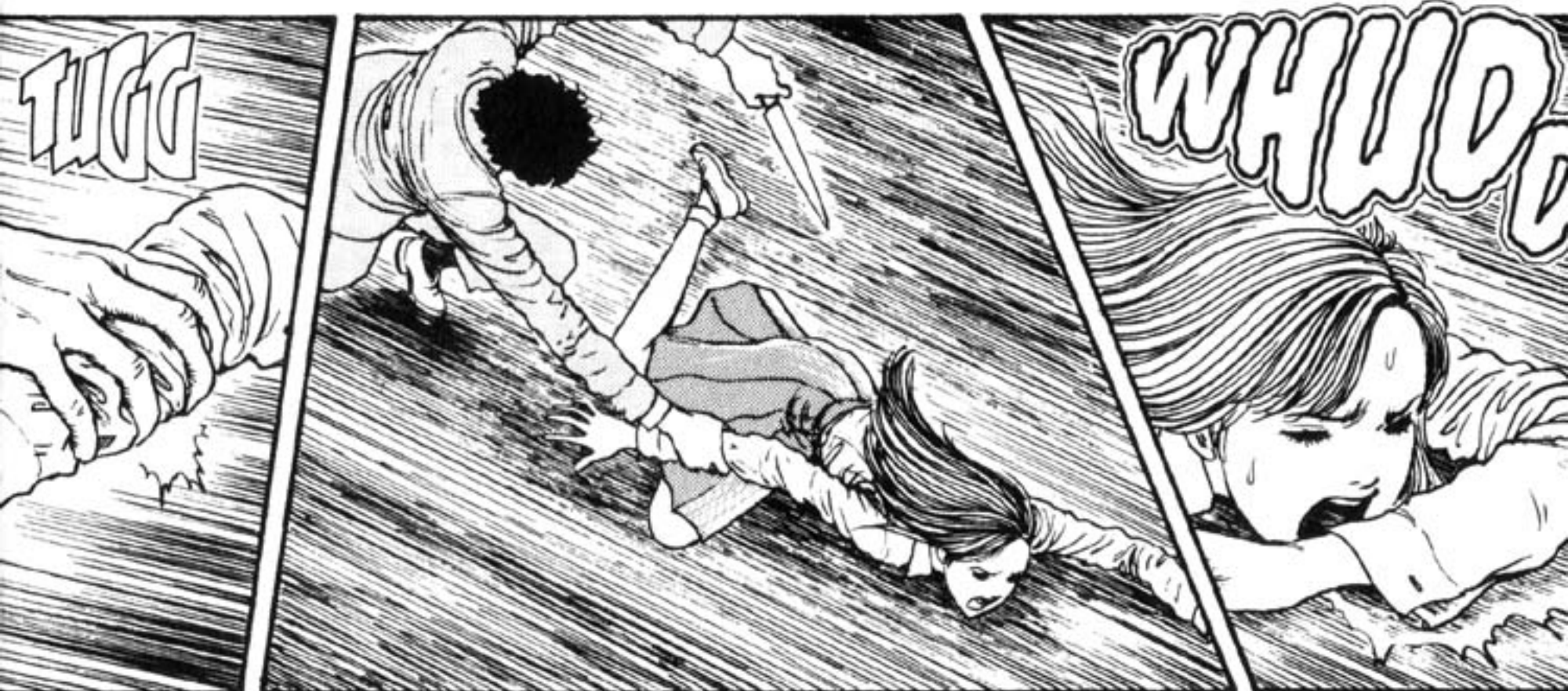




















THIS  
IS  
WONDER-  
FUL!

THIS  
IS IN-  
CREDIBLE!



AND  
I...  
I DIS-  
COVERED  
IT!

I  
WAS THE  
FIRST  
HUMAN  
TO  
SEE!



AM I  
RIGHT?  
ANSWER ME,  
GALAXIES!



IF IT'S  
"YES," SEND  
ME A SIGNAL!  
SEND ME  
ALL OF THEM!  
BEAM ME  
ALL YOUR  
TRANSMISSIONS  
AT ONCE!

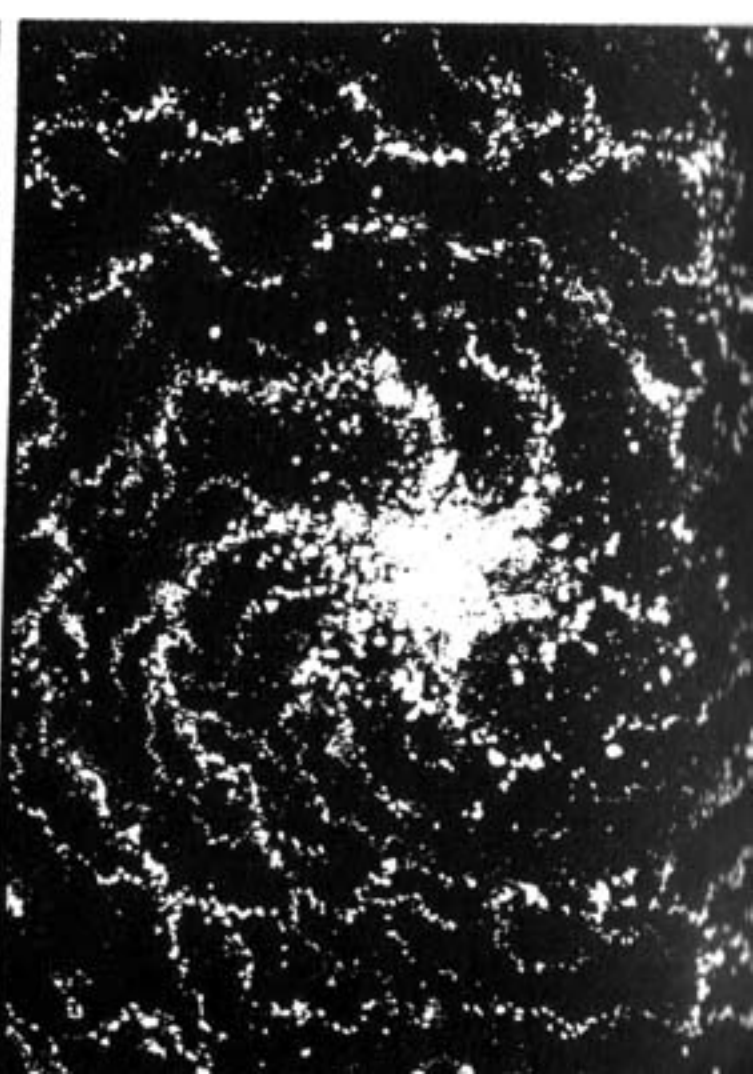


TELL  
ME,  
STARS!



WOW!

ANSWER  
ME!  
NOW!



















WAS  
IT A  
NIGHTMARE?  
I ONLY  
KNOW  
WHAT I  
SAW.



AFTER  
EXPLODING  
LIKE AN EGG  
IN A MICROWAVE,  
TORINO'S HEAD  
TURNED INTO  
A SMALL  
GALAXY, AND  
FLEW OFF  
INTO THE  
NIGHT SKY.



ACCORDING TO THE  
NATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL  
OBSERVATORY'S DATA  
ANALYSIS CENTER, NONE  
OF THE NUMEROUS  
GALAXY SIGHTINGS REPORTED  
IN KURÔZU-CHO  
WERE CONFIRMED.

THEY  
WERE NEVER  
SEEN AGAIN  
IN THIS  
TOWN AS  
WELL.

THE END



**ORIGINAL DATES OF  
PUBLICATION IN JAPAN**

Chapter 13	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits</i> #8, 1999
Chapter 14	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits</i> #12, 1999
Chapter 15	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits</i> #17, 1999
Chapter 16	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits</i> #21-22 (Double Issue), 1999
Chapter 17	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits</i> #26, 1999
Chapter 18	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits</i> #30, 1999
Chapter 19	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits</i> #39, 1999
Lost Chapter	—————	<i>Weekly Big Comic Spirits</i> #9, 2000



# AFTER WORD

THE  
HORROR  
...



THE  
HORROR...



RINNG  
RINNG

BIG  
COMIC  
SPIRITS.  
NAKAGUMA  
SPEAKING.

N-  
NAKAGUMA?  
I-I'M  
IN  
TROUBLE...



SLURP  
SLURP

ITO?  
WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?



H-HE'S  
HERE!

THE  
SPIRAL  
MASTER--  
UZUMAKI-  
SEN'NIN--  
IS IN  
MY  
HOUSE!



"UZUMAKI-  
SEN'NIN?"  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?

DON'T YOU  
REMEMBER?  
LAST VOLUME?  
THE TWO  
OF US WENT  
UP TO THE  
MOUNTAINS  
OF G\_\_\_\_\_  
PREFECTURE  
AND MET  
THAT MAD  
HERMIT?



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?  
THAT  
ENDED  
WITH A  
STUPID  
"IT WAS JUST  
A DREAM!"  
PUNCHLINE!

THAT  
WASN'T  
A DREAM!  
IT WAS  
REAL! IT  
WAS A  
REAL  
PUNCHLINE!



ITO...  
STOP  
KIDDING  
AROUND.

KUR



AND NOW EVEN MY EDITOR HAS ABANDONED ME...

SLURP SLURP

AND NOW EVEN MY EDITOR HAS ABANDONED ME...

SLURP SLURP

A black and white comic panel. On the left, a man with glasses and a serious expression watches. In the center, a large, muscular man with a thick mustache is shown from the chest up, leaning forward and licking a giant lollipop. His tongue is extremely long and thick, curling around the lollipop. Above him, the words "SLURP" and "LICK" are written in large, stylized, bubbly letters. To the right, another "SLURP" is written. In the background, there's a shelf with various bottles and a large spiral shell. On the floor, there are several small, round, spiral-shaped objects. The man licking the lollipop is wearing a simple, loose-fitting shirt.

SO  
YOU WANT  
TO KNOW  
THE SECRET  
OF THE SPIRAL,  
DO YOU?  
THAT'S EASILY  
DONE!  
GYEE HEE  
HEE!

BUT  
FIRST,  
GIVE ME  
MORE FOOD!  
BRING  
ME MORE  
DELICIOUS  
SPIRALS  
TO EAT!

SO  
YOU WANT  
TO KNOW  
THE SECRET  
OF THE SPIRAL,  
DO YOU?  
THAT'S EASILY  
DONE!  
GYEE HEE  
HEE!

BUT  
FIRST,  
GIVE ME  
MORE FOOD!  
BRING  
ME MORE  
DELICIOUS  
SPIRALS  
TO EAT!

...

THIS TIME...  
THERE ISN'T  
ANY  
KIND OF  
PUNCH-  
LINE...

THIS TIME...  
THERE ISN'T  
ANY  
KIND OF  
PUNCH-  
LINE...



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Junji Ito was born in 1963 in Japan. Beginning with his debut story "Tomie" in 1987, Ito has gone on to become Japan's leading horror comics artist. His influences include classic manga greats Kazuo Umezu (*Orochi*) and Hideshi Hino (*Hell Baby*), and the American horror author H.P. Lovecraft. Several of Ito's works have been published to critical acclaim in English in the U.S., including *Tomie* and *Flesh-Colored Horror*. *Uzumaki* is his most popular work to date, first published in Japan in 1998-9, and is his most recent work to appear in English. It was adapted into an innovative live-action film that has been released in the U.S. by Viz Films and Tidepoint Pictures.

He is currently working on *Gyo*, a horror manga about fish.



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*"A superb example of Japanese manga...Ito's execution of this tale is magnificent—he infuses the often frenetic layouts of manga with...the leisurely pace of Poe, the organic grotesqueries of Lovecraft."*

*—Rain Taxi*

With their town devastated by titanic hurricanes, the citizens of the spiral-haunted town of Kurôzu-cho—including Shuichi, Kirie and her family—find themselves cut off from the outside world. Reporters and rescue teams cross the mountain range into Kurôzu-cho only to find themselves unable to leave. Trapped inside the cursed ruins, the desperate survivors struggle and huddle together, waiting to turn into giant snails or worse. The very laws of nature are changed as the spiral sucks them in. And to fight it, or to escape, the last survivors must go to the heart of the horror to witness what may be their eventual fate...

Junji Ito debuted as a horror manga artist in 1987 with the first story in his successful *Tomie* series. *Uzumaki* was adapted into a live-action movie which has been released in America by Viz Films and Tidepoint Pictures. Ito's influences include manga artists Kazuo Umezu and Hideshi Hino, and the authors Yasutaka Tsutsui and H.P. Lovecraft.

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